



Palestinians seek funding extension

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinians have asked donor nations to continue bankrolling their daily government expenses until they become self-sufficient, a top economic official said Wednesday. The donor nations agreed in September to support the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) budget through March 1995. "This from the beginning was an optimistic point of view," said Samir Abdullah, a director of a Palestinian agency in charge of administering the foreign aid. "If the donors adhere to this agreement and don't understand the miscalculation made at the time, the Palestinian government will be in big trouble," Dr. Abdullah added. The running costs of the Palestinian autonomy established last May in Gaza and Jericho are estimated at \$60 million annually. The Palestinian economy has suffered from extended closures imposed by Israel. Dr. Abdullah said Israel has also delayed transferring to the Palestinians revenue from value-added and other taxes collected on their behalf. "This tax clearance is a major source of revenue, over the local purchase tax and local income taxes," Dr. Abdullah said.

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Arafat promises to cooperate with Israel

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met with Israel's Police Minister Moshe Shahal in the self-rule Gaza Strip for the first time Wednesday, and promised to cooperate for Israeli security.

"I repeat that we understand totally Israel's security needs," Mr. Arafat told reporters after a two-hour meeting with Mr. Shahal.

"We will try to overcome (problems) with more joint cooperation," Mr. Arafat said, adding that the talks also covered Palestinian prisoners, safe passages between the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho and the borders of self-rule areas.

Israel has pressed Mr. Arafat to do more to prevent attacks by Palestinian militants before proceeding to the next stage of autonomy: Israeli army redeployment on the West Bank and Palestinian elections.

Mr. Shahal said he brought test wishes from the government to Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian people for the 'Eid Al Fitr holiday starting Thursday.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said no agreements were expected from Wednesday's meeting.

"He (Shahal) came also to listen very carefully, and our primary problem was the prisoners... we appreciate the fact that it was not lie to make decisions," Dr. Shaath said.

He said Mr. Shahal would report back to Prime Minister Rabin, and "some acts of improvement" will take place.

The PLO has demanded the release from Israeli jails of more than 5,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Asked about negotiations on a final settlement with Israel, Mr. Arafat said "we are ready."

"Final talks should start not exceeding the beginning of the third year" of autonomy, he said.

The 1993 self-rule agreement scheduled talks on the final status of the territories and Jerusalem no later than the start of the third year of autonomy, which would mean by May 1996.

Israeli ministers said meanwhile five weeks of calm are paving the way for Israel to negotiate the long-delayed redeployment of troops on the West Bank for the next stage of Palestinian self-rule.

"The future of the peace process is based on attacks," said Justice Minister David Levy.

"If there are none for two or three more weeks the question of the second phase of autonomy will be settled."

Israel stabs Arab

A Jew stabbed and wounded a Palestinian in the back in Arab East Jerusalem's walled Old City on Wednesday, police said.

"The victim was taken to hospital in (West) Jerusalem with moderate wounds," a police spokeswoman said.

The attacker was in custody, she said.

Police said the Israeli, about 24 years old, was talking with border policemen on patrol when suddenly he brandished a knife and stabbed an Arab youth in the back.

The border policeman seized the man and arrested him but he refused to cooperate during questioning and the motive for the attack was not immediately clear, police said.

Dr. Shaath meanwhile warned of "catastrophe" unless the peace process moves ahead, and urged jumping to a final settlement.

"We want to enhance the peace process," Dr. Shaath said. "If God forbid, the peace process fails then we will be up against a confrontation that will wreck everything we built together."

Security Council debates settlements; action unlikely

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council has launched a debate on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories but it was seen unlikely that it would adopt any serious action after the U.S. asserted that the council should stay out of the Middle East peace process.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gad Yaacobi declared Wednesday that the world body's failure to censor Jewish settlement on Tuesday was "a major success."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sought a condemnation of continued settlement, but the Security Council made no decision in New York on Tuesday night.

"I am pleased that the Security Council took no decision at the meeting, it's a major success for Israel," Ambassador Gad Yaacobi told Israel Radio over the telephone from New York.

"The PLO representative at the U.N. admitted he had failed to achieve his goal," Mr. Yaacobi said.

Israel Radio said the United States put pressure on other Security Council members to block any resolution "which might harm the peace process."

Mr. Yaacobi said the United States supports "the vital

process."

PLO envoy Nasser Al-Kidwa, backed by Egypt, demanded "the immediate and total cessation of any settlement activity."

The council was to meet again Wednesday to resume its consideration of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Speakers at the council on Tuesday said Israel's resumption of settlements in the occupied Arab territories posed a serious threat to the success of the peace process and must be halted immediately.

Such settlement activity represented an effort to pre-judge future negotiations on the question of settlements, by establishing a pre-existing situation on the ground, at a time when Israel had been expected to engage in confidence-building measures in support of the peace process, many speakers said.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the representative of France said the settler colonies were in contravention of the 1949 Geneva Convention, as well as of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles — a view expressed

by many speakers.

The EU appealed to Israel to resolve the matter while respecting international law and the commitments it had made. He urged a prompt resumption of negotiations on all outstanding issues.

Statements were also made by the delegates of Germany, Oman, Nigeria, China, Czech Republic, Argentina, Botswana, Jordan, Japan, Tunisia, Malaysia, Iran, Pakistan, Morocco, Brunei Darussalam, Turkey and Sudan, as well as by the observers for the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and for Palestine, and the chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Gnehm said while the United Nations has a vital part to play in the Mideast peace process, pushing the Security Council to take a decision on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories "can only sour the atmosphere and deflect the parties from the need to work together."

Mr. Gnehm said the United States supports "the vital

work of the United Nations agencies and the U.N. special coordinator to improve economic conditions. We must disapprove, however, of any effort to redirect a negotiating process agreed to previously by the parties."

The council held the debate at the request of Djibouti, the current chairman of the Arab Group.

Citing "the dangerous consequences of (Israeli) activities on the Palestinian people and on the Middle East peace process," Djibouti Ambassador Roble Olayeh said a mood of "mounting disengagement" is permeating the Arab world as a result of a near total lack of progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Mr. Gnehm told the council that Secretary of State Warren Christopher is visiting the Middle East in early March to explore ways to consolidate the agreements already reached and lay the groundwork for future progress.

"Therefore, the U.S. delegation must oppose any activity that would only complicate efforts to spur the negotiating process," the ambassador said.

Tehran implicitly confirms missiles in Gulf deploying

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran on Wednesday implicitly confirmed a U.S. report that it had deployed anti-aircraft missiles on islands in the Gulf but insisted such actions were strictly for defence.

"It is surprising to us that the United States would start such a noisy propaganda against our air defence readiness, as if U.S. officials have forgotten recent threats of attack by the Zionist regime," Foreign Ministry spokesman Moritz Sarmadi said in a statement sent to AFP.

Iran is involved in a territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates over three islands — Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tumb — which it controls at the entrance to the vital waterway.

Gen. Shalikashvili said Iran had also detected the Iranians moving artillery into forward positions on the islands in the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world's crude oil is shipped.

But Mr. Sarmadi said the United States was "undertaking a vain effort to portray Iran's defensive readiness as a threat against its Persian Gulf Arab neighbours and as a threat to world trade."

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NPT push runs into U.S. pressure

NICOSIA (AFP) — Arab states are running up against the diplomatic clout of the United States in their campaign to force Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher starts a new Middle East tour next week partly aimed at nudging the Arabs into signing an indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT at an April-May U.N. conference in New York.

The European Union (EU) and Russia back the U.S. stand.

One of Mr. Christopher's stops is Egypt, a U.S. ally which is spearheading a threat not to renew membership if Israel — considered the region's undeclared atomic giant — refuses to sign on.

Washington provides Cairo with around \$2 billion in annual aid.

Backing Egypt so far are the Gulf states of Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain as well as Syria, Lebanon, Sudan and Iraq. Baghdad's advanced nuclear weapons programme was reported destroyed and dismantled since the 1991 Gulf war.

Financial power Saudi Arabia, another major U.S. ally which Mr. Christopher plans to visit, said it will not take a stand until an Arab conference later this month.

But the editor of the Cairo magazine *Mussawar* who is close to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was sceptical about how successful the campaign will be.

Egyptian officials mean-

"All the indications are that the United States will pressure a number of Arab countries to ensure the quorum necessary for an indefinite extension of the NPT," Makram Mohammad Ahmad said.

Washington will try to block a joint Arab stand because it would "not please the Israelis who determine all American decisions concerning the Middle East," Mr. Ahmad added in this week's edition.

Israel, which is angry at its Egyptian partner in peace for taking such a tough stand, is adamant it cannot sign the NPT because it is the only state in the region whose very existence is threatened.

The Jewish state opposes international control over a nuclear arsenal reported to include some 200 warheads. However, newspaper reports said last week Israel was for the first time considering joining the NPT two years after a global peace settlement in the region including Iran.

Egypt's final position will not be announced until the April 17 to May 12 conference when the 170 states which signed the NPT for 25 years in 1970 will vote an indefinite extension or a limited renewal for five, 10, 15 or 25 years.

Whether Cairo votes for or against it, the treaty would still apply to Egypt unless it formally suspends its membership — a step which Arab diplomats said would be unlikely.

Egyptian officials mean-

while have given up hope they can influence the outcome of the conference and have sought instead to push for three kinds of guarantees from Israel, Arab diplomats said.

Cairo wants Israel to sign a formal declaration of intent to set a date for joining the NPT in the future, open facilities to international or Egyptian inspection, and pledge to join negotiations on drafting a treaty to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East.

In theory the U.S. goal is for the NPT to be extended to all countries in the region to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone, including Israel, Ms. Davis said.

But she immediately added, "we're also very realistic, and we would not expect the Israelis to take steps inconsistent with how they see their security to-day."

Earlier in the day in Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said his country wanted its nuclear row with Israel to figure on the agenda of Mr. Christopher's mission to the Middle East.

"Contacts are underway to deal with this crisis as well as the dangers threatening the peace process and the feeling of disappointment among the Palestinians," he told reporters.

Separately, the State Department announced that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal would pay a two-day visit to Washington, starting Thursday and including meetings with Mr. Christopher.

The prince also will meet with President Bill Clinton, said the source speaking privately.

His talks with Mr. Christopher should include the Mideast peace process and the renewing of the NPT.

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday approved the nomination of Martin Indyk to be the first Jewish ambassador to Israel from the United States.

The committee acted by voice vote without debate sending Mr. Indyk's name to the full Senate for final action.

Mr. Indyk, 43, has been director of Near East and South Asian affairs on President Bill Clinton's National Security Council since 1993. He came to the United States in 1982 from Australia and became a naturalised U.S. citizen two years ago.

He said that the Somalia-run institution, known as the "Restore Hope Orphanage," after the mission in which thousands of U.S.-led troops arrived in a landmark humanitarian effort two years ago, had been closed down.

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When U.S. and Italian

Marines find abandoned Somali orphans

MOGADISHU (R) — Few Somalis seem to be weeping about the departure of foreign troops from their soil this week — but orphaned orphans Ahmad and Ahmad cried their eyes out.

Burly U.S. Marines who came ashore to cover evacuating United Nations peacekeepers on Tuesday were at a loss about what to do with the young children who wailed and sobbed when Pakistani soldiers who took care of them for months left.

"The Pakistanis took care of them but now they have nowhere to go," said Sergeant Ron Turner.

The children were clearly terrified of the uniformed

American men wielding guns who seemed deeply touched by the boys' distress. "I gave them some candy. I haven't got any left," said one soldier.

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When U.S. and Italian

Tour of Kabul is a lesson in survival skills

By Greg Myre

The Associated Press

nominal government does not function, schools are rare and there is no formal economy.

None of this stops the enterprising Afghans, who are legendary for their survival skills.

When the money-changing market was wiped out by heavy battles along the Kabul River last year, the industry quickly reemerged in the less volatile western side of town as dozens of operators set up shop in snipping containers.

Amanullah, like every Kabul resident, knows that to survive in this shattered city you have to be flexible. This rugged Asian nation has been at war for 16 years and its robust people have learned to cope, and in a few instances thrive, under the most extraordinary circumstances.

Kabul, once a lively city of bustling markets, has been transformed by the Islamic militias that have battled for power since ousting a communist government in 1992.

There has not been electricity or running water for almost two years. The

city has seen only spor-

adic shooting for the past few days as a U.N. mission tries to establish a ceasefire and create a multiparty government. But the relentless fighting over the past three years has caused about half the city's 1.5 million people to flee.

Thousands of those still in Kabul now live in mosques, schools or badly scarred apartment buildings.

On the dusty streets, chaos reigns. At almost every intersection, a hapless police officer in a white hat tries to impose order on the traffic only to find himself ignored by man, beast and vehicle.

With so many people living at the margin, precious little is wasted. Carts of old tyres are hauled to a shop where they are made into shoes. Phone and electrical lines have been torn down for the copper, which can be resold.

One man was seen hacking apart rockets — before they had been fired — to sell Mohammadi, who was busy repairing the front wheel of a taxi.

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One man was seen hacking apart rockets — before they had been fired — to sell Mohammadi, who was busy repairing the front wheel of a taxi.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday chairs a meeting of Islamic leaders (Petra photo)

Crown Prince urges preachers to promote guidance of youth

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday urged the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and its appointed mosque preachers to pay particular attention to teaching youth and deepening their faith.

Addressing the first meeting by its councils and committees of the various ministry departments, the Crown Prince suggested the creation of a task force to include young Muslims to help spread the message of the mosque.

He told the audience gathered at the Islamic Cultural Centre at the King Abdulla Mosque in Amman that the message of the mosque should be based on a universal

Islamic perspective, and that scholars and religious leaders should pool their resources in helping the youth understand and deal with the developments of the modern age.

Prince Hassan also called at the meeting to help organise meetings with Muslim scholars from other nations to seek a twinning of Jordan's mosques with other mosques in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and to promote and highlight Jordan's call for the creation of an international Zakat fund to help the poor in the Muslim world.

At the outset of the meeting, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi reviewed ministry

plans for improving the departments' various functions and the execution of plans set by the ministry to upgrade preaching and other services to the public.

Among topics discussed at the meeting were: the mosque's mission, the Friday sermons, schools for teaching the Holy Koran, iftaa, Islamic publications, Sbaria teaching, the Zakat fund, and issues related to Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca).

Present at the meeting were: Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzedin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzad Ensour, Prince Hassan's advisor, Mohammad Saqaf, and other officials.

Israeli envoy-designate makes quick Amman visit — embassy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli ambassador-designate to Jordan, Salmon Shamir, paid a few-hour visit to Amman on Wednesday and held talks with officials at the Israeli embassy and drove around the capital, an Israeli embassy spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said it was "premature" to discuss anything about Mr. Shamir's plans since his nomination as Israel's first ambassador to Jordan had yet to be confirmed by the Israeli cabinet.

"The ambassador-designate was here on a private visit that lasted a few hours, and there was nothing official about the visit," said the spokeswoman, adding that no Jordanian officials had met Mr. Shamir.

Other reports suggested that Mr. Shamir might have been here for "orientation" ahead of a possible appearance before the Israeli cabinet prior to his appointment, although such an en-

counter is not obligatory. He was also believed to be looking for a possible residence in Amman.

Foreign ministry officials said the Jordanian government had not received any official notification of Mr. Shamir's nomination. In any event, such a notification, which would seek Jordanian approval of the nomination, could come only after the Israeli government itself approves it.

The officials, who preferred not to be identified, said they did not expect any problems with Jordan approving Mr. Shamir, an academician and expert on Middle East affairs.

Mr. Shamir, a professor at Tel Aviv University, served as Israel's first ambassador to Egypt.

His possible nomination as ambassador to Jordan was a compromise between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who favoured rival candidates, according to reports in the Israeli press.

The Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv, as when fully functional from proper premises, is expected to have up to seven diplomats supported by administrative staff, local reports said.



Holiday shoppers in downtown Amman (photo by Rana Hussein)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

LECTURE

Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Current Crisis of the Oslo Accord: Causes and Horizons" by Mr. Nabil 'Amr, Fatah Revolutionary Council member, at Abdul Hamid Sharif Foundation on Sunday.

March 5, at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Jordan River Designs (a Save The Children Project) featuring hand embroidered, home furnishing, and fashion accessories during the Eid holiday (Tel. 628760).
★ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Centre.

'Cabinet decision to raise pensions in line with King's directives'

AMMAN (Petra) — A Cabinet decision issued Tuesday evening raising the pension of retired civil and military personnel whose services were terminated before December 1994 came in implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives in recognition of their vital services to the nation over the past years. Minister of Information Khaled Karaki said Wednesday.

Dr. Karaki said the increases, ranging between JD7 and JD23 a month, would raise the retired servicemen's and civilian personnel's pensions to the same level of those who retired before December 1, 1994.

He said, however, that since the increases amount to JD36 million — something for which there was no allocation in the 1995 fiscal budget — the Council of Ministers decided to spread the increases gradually over the next three years ending May 1, 1997 when all retired personnel from the civil service and military would be receiving the same amount of pension regardless of the date of their retirement.

The King voiced appreciation of the government's efforts to come to the aid of military and civilian personnel who had offered vital services to the nation over the years and to the families of martyrs.

King Hussein directed the government to speed up study on other laws and regulations which are needed to cater to the requirements of the current stage of constructing the country's institutions and achieving overall development.

The King listened to a detailed briefing by the prime minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker about the government's programmes aimed at

Finance Minister Basel Jardeh said in a statement earlier that the measures are designed to remove differences in the amount of pension received by earlier and new pensioners.

He said the total number of retired personnel — civil and military — who would benefit from the plan is 160,175.

The plan was submitted to King Hussein at a Cabinet meeting held Tuesday evening.

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implementing its policy statement as presented to parliament and in implementation of royal directives to the government.

The Cabinet said that Jordan would attend the 103rd Arab League session due to be held on March 22 in Cairo, and said that the Jordanian delegation will be led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The Cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to attend an international conference on investment opportunities in tourism and hotel sectors in Arab countries to be held in Damascus on March 12.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Al Khatib will head Jordan's delegation to that meeting.

The Cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to a meeting by the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation meeting to be held in the United Arab Emirates on March 27, and another delegation to attend the 11th meeting of the International Labour Organisation's committee on chemical industries

to be held in Geneva in May.

Also Wednesday, the Cabinet announced its approval of recommendations submitted by a ministerial committee set up to study the fate of workers at the defunct Jordan Glass Industries Company (JGICO) which had suspended operations as of Dec. 31, 1993 due to heavy losses.

According to a statement from the Cabinet, the company's estimated 300 workers will be absorbed by government departments and public shareholding companies and given new jobs.

The statement said that all the company workers will receive a 13th month salary for last year and that care would be taken towards appointing these workers in establishments as close as possible to their present place of residence.

According to the statement, 131 workers will be given jobs in shareholding companies and 103 in government departments, while the rest will later be found jobs in accordance with their skills and experience.

The Council of Ministers had entrusted the ministerial committee on Feb. 11 to undertake a full study of the company's affairs and come up with recommendations.

The company, which was established in 1974 near Maan with a JD1 million capital, started production in 1984, and its capital was raised to JD9 million in 1987.

It suffered losses of more than 75 per cent of its capital mainly as a result of obsolete technology and production methods, according to experts.

The main problem was the below-standard quality of sheet glass produced by the company's factory causing the company to run into serious troubles over the past few years.

Experts said that the company's assets are estimated between \$35 million and \$40 million.

Several proposals submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Trade about modernising the plant are still pending, and the Cabinet statement made no mention of any plans in this respect.

Premier inaugurates QAIA link bridge

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new bridge linking the Abdoun area with the Queen Alia International Airport highway and the Seventh Circle in Amman was formally inaugurated Wednesday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker at a ceremony attended by Amman Mayor Mamoudah Abbadi and other officials.

The bridge was to have been opened for traffic three weeks ago, but work was delayed temporarily following the collapse of part of the construction on Jan. 3, in which workers were injured.

Dr. Abbadi said that the municipality worked around the clock against the odds of shorter working hours during Ramadan and cold nights to finish the job and present the completed bridge to the public as a gift on 'Eid Al Fitri.

The prime minister and the mayor toured the area and was told that the total cost of the construction was borne by the municipality which also financed the construction of traffic lights, street shoulders.

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In a letter sent on Sunday to the two tabloids Al-Bilad and Hawadeth Al-Sa'ah a copy of which was sent to Al-Dustour publishing house where the two papers are regularly printed — the director of the Press and Publications Department, Mohammad Amin, called on the two periodicals to stop their publication until their status is rectified in accordance with the law.

He told the Jordan Times that the chief editors of the two weeklies could not be considered as full members of the JPA since they have not been sworn in.

On Monday, Mr. Amin sued Al-Majid weekly for publishing a riddle that is considered offensive to the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al-Nahyan. The riddle, printed in Monday's paper, asked readers to identify an

imaginary animal "with one eye, one ear, lives in the wilderness, eats honey and stings like a bee. The creator is homosexual, bates women and is short-sighted."

Al-Majid printed the riddle under a headline identifying the author as Sheikh Al-Nahayan. It said the riddle seems to be written by Sheikh Zayed but "distributed by his enemies." The weekly readers should send answers to the royal palace in the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, to qualify for a prize of one million UAE dirhams.

Mr. Amin said Al-Majid violated Article 40 of the Press and Publication Law. The article bars all publications "from publishing articles or information that would slander the personality of presidents of Arab countries, Islamic or friendly countries or heads of states and members of diplomatic missions."

The chief editor of Al-Majid, Fahd Rimawi, said the article altogether with all its clauses should be cancelled.

"There is no such article in any press and publication law all over the world," Mr. Rimawi said.

"In a couple of months they would sue us if we

utter a word against Israel."

Mr. Rimawi accused the government of attempting to wipe out all weekly opposition newspapers by using a "law that is filled with gaps."

"There is no democracy anymore," he said. "Democracy can't survive in such an environment."

JPA President Suliman Qudah rejected all accusations against the association and said the association would stand by Al-Majid in court but bad nothing to do with the closing down of Al-Bilad and Hawadeth Al-Sa'ah.

"Can one consider Hawadeth Al-Sa'ah as an opposition newspaper?" Mr. Qudah asked. "We were asked by the PPD if the newly-appointed chief editors were JPA members or not, and we said membership could not be complete unless they took the oath."

Hilmi Al-Asmar, a JPA board member, said he opposed the closure of any newspaper but that "things have gone out of hand."

"It is a very complicated issue," Mr. Asmar, chief editor of the Islamist weekly Al-Sabeel, said. "The publication of sensational news ... we have employed

all means but nothing seems to work out."

Al-Bilad, Hawadeth Al-Sa'ah and Sabeel have come under criticism from the JPA because they were overstating facts and publishing material that infringe upon the general ethics."

The JPA cited Article 40-a-9 that bars the publication of any news, reports, letters and photos that are in contradiction with the general ethics and moral standards.

In a memo sent last month to the three weeklies, the JPA threatened to refer them to a disciplinary council if they did not stop publishing "fabricated news, obscene photos and inaccurate news."

"It is not a story of publishing obscene photos or fabricated crimes," Mr. Hawadeth Al-Sa'ah charged. "They are targeting opposition papers because they publish true and real information that has never been published before and that influences decision-makers."

"But our values are different from those in European countries," Yasser Abu Hilaleh, managing editor of Al-Sabeel, said. "We have constants and fixed principles that cannot be changed."

Reports of liquidation of media production firm false; company progressing well, says chairman

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Recent reports in the Arabic press told of the liquidation of the Jordan Radio, Television and Cinema Production Company which were closely followed by a denial issued by its board of directors chairman, Fahed Fanek, stating that the company was in fact progressing well.

"There is no reality whatsoever" in the reports of liquidation, "the company is operating and has rented its studios to JTV (Jordan Television) for two months, and Shaikh Saleh Kamel for another two," Dr. Fanek told

Former Al-Intaq General Manager Jawad Maragh blamed decreased production upon the trend towards outdoor shooting and the loss of the company's

best market: the Gulf states.

The Gulf crisis of 1990-1991 led to a strain in relations between Jordan and the Gulf countries.

In a bid to stem its insolvency a management committee, appointed last July, decided upon leasing the studios.

In late September the lease was awarded to Saudi businessman and Rome-based Aran Radio and Television (ART) owner Shaikh Saleh Kamel.

Despite the management committee's approval of Shaikh Saleh's offer of \$500,000 annually for four years, the lease has not yet been activated.

Mr. Maragh resigned from his position as general manager

ment Corporation and are the liability of the Ministry of Finance.

"We do not have to worry about the loans. We worry about the day-to-day affairs, and currently the company is doing well and is liquid," he added.

"In fact, we are having second thoughts about a long-term lease because the (production) climate is more favourable," said Dr. Fanek, adding that the company is awaiting the arrival of a new general manager.

The position has been offered to Zaid Feriz of JTV, but his reply of acceptance or refusal is still awaited.

Korean president calls North to stop hostility

Koreans pay tribute to Marshal

By AP Wire Service
From the Associated Press
SOUTH KOREA
Pyongyang, March 22 — South Korean President Kim Jong-Il called on the North to stop its "hostile" policies and end its "militaristic" policies.

"It is a national shame for our country to remain divided after half a century," Mr. Kim said, standing in front of a huge mural depicting women and men waving Korean flags and marching to demand freedom.

"Our patriotic old dream of an independent, unified and advanced homeland, not one which was divided. Both the South and North must now strive in earnest for reunification."

In March 1, 1919, thousands of Koreans took to the streets to declare independence from Japan. Hundreds were injured and taken prisoner. Dozens were killed.

Schools were closed as a result, and many fled to China and the United States to avoid persecution. March 1 is a national holiday in South Korea.

Relations between North and South Korea are still frosty, and government-level talks on improving ties have been suspended since 1993.

With no peace treaty signed, the two sides remain technically at war, with nearly 2 million troops facing off across the demilitarized zone, the world's most heavily guarded border.

News to keep alive in U.N.

As keep the United States involved in the United Nations in peacekeeping, to keep us supporting an active role in the world," Mr. Clinton said during an exchange with reporters.

"I believe the American people understand that we're better off having these burdens shared with all the nations of the world," Mr. Clinton said.

"If we walk away as some suggest we should in our Congress, and don't spend the money on this, all we're going to do is make the world's problems worse," he said.

Romey blamed in Timor killings

The Liquica incident has also refocused world attention on East Timor, which Indonesia invaded in 1975, a move never recognised by the United Nations.

The Human Rights Commission's findings were surprisingly tough, given its official position, and directly contradicted investigations into the incident carried out by the powerful military.

While admitting troops delayed from procedures, the commission insists two of the "villagers" were guerrillas and the others sympathisers.

Human rights groups, East Timorese exiles and local residents have said all along the they were only villagers.

Since invading East Timor, Indonesia has faced dwindling guerrilla resistance and fanned civilian unrest.

Members of the year-old commission — which has been outspokenly critical on several key cases — returned to Jakarta from Dili Sunday after investigations into the incident.

Marcia Darusman, a commission member, told the news conference it would present the findings of the panel to the government soon but he declined to give details.

In the aftermath of the incident, foreign journalists have been denied permits to visit East Timor.

The commission's report echoes an earlier attack on the military's role in East Timor, when several senior officers were removed after the shooting of more than 50 East Timorese protesters in the capital Dili in November 1991.

A United Nations human rights investigator urged Indonesia Tuesday to reopen inquiries into that incident, which he described as the slaughter by troops of up to 200 civilians.

Presenting his report on the territory to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Sacre Waly Ndiaye said that of the most distressing aspects of his inquiry was that nobody had yet been charged for the killings.

place at the Sejong Cultural Centre in downtown Seoul with some 4,000 prominent Koreans participating, including children of those who took part in the independence struggle.

"It is a national shame for our country to remain divided after half a century," Mr. Kim said, standing in front of a huge mural depicting women and men waving Korean flags and marching to demand freedom.

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Recent attempts at restarting talks have been fruitless, with both sides suggesting meetings only to have the other side reject each offer.

North-South dialogue was supposed to occur with the implementation of a nuclear deal between Pyongyang and Washington.

Meanwhile, North Korean Wednesday bid a final farewell to Defence Minister O Jin-U, number two in the Communist state's hierarchy, who died of lung cancer Saturday at 78.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Kim Jong-Il attended a solemn state funeral for Marshal O, a rare public appearance by the isolated country's shadowy leader.

"The great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Jong-Il, chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, was present at the funeral," KCNA said in a dispatch from Pyongyang.

"Comrade Kim Jong-Il together with senior party and state officials paid a moment's silent tribute to the memory of O Jin-U," the agency said.

Marshal O's death compounds the mystery over developments in the corridors of power.

power of the secretive state, which continues to recover from the shock of losing founder Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-Il's father, last July.

Radio Pyongyang had said Kim Jong-Il would head the 240-member funeral committee, which included senior party and state officials.

Prime Minister Kang Song-San, previously ranked third in the country's hierarchy, was named just behind Kim Jong-Il in the list of funeral committee members, meaning that Mr. Kang had virtually inherited the number two position from Marshal O, South Korean officials said.

"I don't think there will be major changes in the hierarchy until Kim Jong-Il formally assumes top positions in the North," said Choi Sang-Chol, an analyst at the Unification Ministry in Seoul.

The junior Kim has been hailed by North Korean media as his father's successor but has yet to be elevated to the key posts held by his father — state president and general secretary of the all-powerful Communist Party.

KCNA said Marshal O was buried in the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mount Taesong in Pyongyang.

"A bust of O Jin-U was set up in the cemetery," it added.

Before the funeral, North Koreans paid tribute to the late defence minister in Pyongyang.

"We will reach that stage after the (border) area has been demilitarised," Mr. Lamprea said, adding that the guarantor countries of the 1942 Protocol of Rio de Janeiro would send military observers "immediately" to 78-kilometre (48-mile) stretch of Amazon jungle claimed by both countries.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Latin American affairs, Alexander Watson, also signed the agreement.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States, who guaranteed a flawed, 1942 border treaty between the two countries, have stepped in as mediators since the latest fighting began on Jan. 26.

The ministerial meeting here was convened last week by Ecuador after it became clear that neither country was complying with the ceasefire agreement that was signed in Brasilia last month.

The four-point Declaration of Montevideo calls for an immediate ceasefire in the disputed border area along the Andes' Condor Range, and for both sides to withdraw their troops to previously designated areas.

In addition, Ms. Clark said, Ms. Lopez talks about the tape, about hearing a conversation between Simpson and another man at about 10 p.m. that night, but that fact was never brought out in her testimony.

Ms. Clark said that for once in her career she was at a loss for words. "I'm speechless... that tells you something," she said.

The prosecution Monday called on Judge Ito to discipline Simpson's so-called "dream team" for concealing the tape.

Defence attorney Carl Douglas, who is in charge of exchange evidence with the prosecution under California's law of discovery, said Monday he was not aware of the tape.

Judge Ito told the attorneys he would deal with the "problem" of Juror 620 when the jury returns to court Wednesday.

After listening to the taped conversation between witness Rosa Lopez and defence investigator William Pavlicek, the 49ers' lapel pin, the 49ers was the last team Simpson played for in his illustrious career as running back.

Judge Ito told the attorneys he would deal with the "problem" of Juror 620 when the jury returns to court Wednesday.

Ms. Lopez had been due to take the stand for a third time Tuesday morning, but the judge and attorneys spent the morning having the tape copied.

Ms. Lopez testified Monday that she saw Simpson's Bronco parked outside his home at around 10:15 p.m. on June 12, 1994.

Simpson prosecution given tape of alibi witness

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's defence team Tuesday gave prosecutors a tape of an interview with a key alibi witness who says she saw the American football legend's white vehicle outside his estate at the time he was alleged to be murdering his ex-wife and a friend.

Prosecutors have accused the defence of trying to "sandbag" their case by withholding the tape, made July 29, and even denying its existence.

In a separate development, transcripts released Tuesday of an in-chambers hearing between Judge Lance Ito and the attorneys indicated the judge might dismiss a juror Wednesday for misconduct.

The panel member is juror 620, a black man who reportedly made a bet with a colleague at work before being chosen for the panel that Simpson would be found guilty.

The juror was also seen sporting a San Francisco 49ers' lapel pin. The 49ers was the last team Simpson played for in his illustrious career as running back.

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After years of delay, Irish lawmakers to face abortion

DUBLIN (AP) — Abortion, long taboo in this predominantly Roman Catholic country where the constitution bans it as murder, faces a historic trial this week.

Lawmakers have shied away from the issue for more than two years. But on Thursday, Ireland's parliament plans to debate a bill setting rules on how Irish women get information on abortion services in neighbouring England.

The Abortion Information Bill — pending since Irish voters approved the principle in a 1992 referendum — marks the first time that lawmakers have seriously considered liberalising abortion law.

Bitterly familiar battles are being drawn. Ireland's ruling three-party coalition is aiming for unanimous support, but members of Fianna Fail, the largest political bloc, are considering restrictive amendments.

"This bill will pass," predicted Health Minister Michael Noonan. "Whether it will satisfy activists on either side is doubtful."

The pro-life campaign, Ireland's leading anti-abortion

group, says the bill represents a first step towards legalising abortion services within the Irish Republic and is "certain to foster an abortion culture."

In a statement, the campaign's 41 national chapters said the bill "proposes an intolerable contradiction: namely, that we may assist in bringing about the destruction of the lives of unborn babies... as long as that destruction takes place outside the jurisdiction."

Women's rights and pro-choice groups say the bill provides testimony to lawmakers' cowardice.

"We've waited two years for this? It's a legal mess and a disgrace," said Anne Taylor, president of the Council for the Status of Women in Ireland.

"Women cannot get access to information easily available elsewhere and cannot get any help in what is, for many, a prohibitively expensive journey overseas," Ms. Taylor said. "This bill does little to change that."

Each year, an estimated 5,000 women cross the Irish Sea to get abortions in Eng-

land, reflecting nearly one in 10 pregnancies in a country of about 3.5 million people, according to British government statistics.

Catholic traditionalists want to ensure that doctors aren't put in the position of referring women to clinics.

"In a one-to-one situation, where the doctor sits down with a woman who indicates she's pregnant — look, I'm pregnant and I've discussed it with my husband and I want a termination" — he must counsel her on the other options," Mr. Noonan said.

Counseling is required "to see if we can reduce the number of women who have to go abroad for abortions," said Mr. Noonan, a lawmaker in Fine Gael, a socially conservative party that since December has governed the Irish Republic alongside two liberal parties.

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Ecuadorian President Duran Ballen shows on a map the disputed border area between Peru and Ecuador during a press conference in Montevideo. Mr. Duran Ballen was in Montevideo to attend the inauguration of Uruguay's President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti (AFP photo)

Ecuador, Peru agree to abide by truce

MONTEVIDEO (AP) — Ecuador and Peru have agreed to halt their month-long border war and abide by their Feb. 17 ceasefire pact, during a four-hour meeting with international mediators in Montevideo.

The "Declaration of Montevideo" was signed at midnight Tuesday (0300 GMT Wednesday) by Foreign Ministers Galo Leor of Ecuador, Efraim Goldemberg of Peru, Guido di Tella of Argentina, Luiz Lamprea of Brazil and Jose Miguel Insulza of Chile.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Latin American affairs, Alexander Watson, also signed the agreement.

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I Gras
pour fails to
ren festivities

Local elections delayed in Indian state

RELEANS. Torrential rains dampen the annual Urs festival in Srinagar, where the pre-Lenten festivities of drinking and dancing have been suspended.

Indian Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan decided to defer the state assembly polls in Bihar after "reviewing the law and order situation in the state," the official Election Commission said in a statement.

It said the Bihar elections, originally scheduled to be held on March 5, 7 and 9, would now take place on March 11, 13 and 19.

The Indian government ordered the deployment Wednesday of nearly 75,000 federal troops in Bihar to oversee the elections, a day after a Communist Party candidate and his bodyguard were gunned down.

Santu Das, a candidate of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), was shot and killed when he arrived for an election meeting in Bihar's Chacha district late Tuesday, the Press Trust of India reported Wednesday.

Bihar Home Secretary J.L. Arya described the killers as "extremists," an official euphemism for the outlawed Maoist Communist Centre (MCC), which has urged voters to boycott the polls.

Mr. Das running far from an assembly seat from Chatra, one of 324 constituencies in Bihar, which has the reputation of being India's most lawless state.

He was the second candidate to be murdered. Suspected political rivals earlier killed a candidate of the Congress (I) Party of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Some 25 other people, including party supporters and policemen, have been slain in Bihar since campaigning began last month. Most of the killings have been blamed on Maoist groups.

Officials here said 75,000 troops would be deployed in Bihar to oversee the elections, the largest deployment ever for a state election in India.

A Home Ministry official said 45,500 troops had already reached Bihar, which is India's second most populous state and shares a border with Nepal and the Communist-controlled state of West Bengal.

The Bihar government, enroled by the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), had sought 120,000 paramilitary troops from New Delhi. Tens of thousands of local police will also be on duty during the voting.

Bihar officials have admitted that they may not be able to provide adequate security at all of the 82,459 polling stations across the sprawling state.

"We will do all we can to ensure peaceful polling in Bihar," the Home Ministry official said.

Bihar is one of six Indian states electing new legislators in February and March. The polls are considered crucial for Prime Minister Rao, whose Congress Party is widely expected to lose in Bihar, where 8,400 candidates are vying for 325 seats in the state assembly.

The MCC and another Maoist group have urged Biharis to boycott the polls, calling them a "bourgeois." But other leftist groups are taking part.

Meanwhile, elections may be held in Kashmir before July 18 to elect the first local government in five years, the administration of the troubled Indian state said in remarks published Wednesday.

Governor K.V. Krishna Rao told a meeting of political leaders and prominent citizens in the Kashmir winter capital Jammu Tuesday that New Delhi was keen to "restore a democratically-elected government in the state," the Pioneer daily said.

Mr. Krishna Rao, a former chief of the Indian army, said the situation in the strife-torn Kashmir Valley "is steadily improving and this should create confidence among the people to express their will without fear."

The Indian authorities have repeatedly vowed to hold elections in the northern state, which has been administered directly by New Delhi since January 1990. But it is the first time a possible deadline has been sounded.



Polish Parliament Speaker Jozef Oleksy meets the media after the conference with members of the coalition government of the Polish Peasant Party (PSL) and the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD). The coalition parties decided on forming a new government with Mr. Oleksy as designated new prime minister (AFP photo)

Polish Sejm elects Oleksy premier

WARSAW. Poland's parliament (Sejm) elected its ex-Communist Speaker Jozef Oleksy as prime minister Wednesday, handing him the hard task of forming a cabinet in the teeth of President Lech Wałęsa's naked hostility.

Deputies voted 285 to 5, with 127 abstentions, to elect outgoing Premier Włodzimierz Pawlak with his coalition partner Mr. Oleksy, the first minister of a former Communist government to return to power in post-1989 democratic Poland.

"I will try to ensure that the president will appoint me prime minister today," Mr. Oleksy, 48, said after the vote.

Mr. Oleksy's Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) party denounced the attacks by Mr. Wałęsa which prompted Mr. Pawlak to quit last month, including his refusal to sign the country's 1995 budget.

"I want to believe that there will soon be an end to the economic games... played by President Lech Wałęsa for political gain," SLD chief Aleksander Kwasniewski told parliament.

The cabinet change marks a shift of power in the ruling coalition from Mr. Pawlak's conservative, rural-based Polish Peasant Party (PSL) to Mr. Oleksy's larger and more reformist SLD.

Asked whether Mr. Wałęsa would approve the reshuffled cabinet line-up thrashed out in two weeks of tough talks between the coalition parties, the president's spokesman would not say.

"I don't know. That's not a question that can be answered at once," spokesman Leszek Spalinski told private Radio Zet.

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based Polish Peasant Party (PSL) to Mr. Oleksy's larger and more reformist SLD.

Even before the parliamentary vote, Mr. Wałęsa was suggesting that he might refuse to sign the new cabinet into being.

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Separation incurs costs

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to go ahead at full speed with his decision to separate Israelis from Palestinians found an added expression when Rabin told his cabinet a few days ago that there are already 59,000 foreign (non-Palestinian) workers and another 11,000 are expected to arrive soon to replace Palestinian labourers working in Israel. At the height of cooperation between the two sides there were no less than 120,000 Palestinians earning their livelihood within Israel. In the wake of last month's Beit Lid bombing, however, the number dwindled to about 15,000. No wonder living standards in the Gaza Strip dropped by 25 per cent in the last six months alone.

The main beneficiary of all these changes on the employment scene is of course Hamas and other anti-negotiations organisations operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The new economic hardships in the Palestinian territories have obviously compounded the longstanding economic woes of the Palestinian people and made the socio-economic climate favourable to more and greater violence.

Granted that the Palestinian dependence on Israel for either employment or commerce and trade has never been healthy or viable. But sooner or later this inter-dependence could not go on for ever anyway. The Palestinians can no longer claim a legitimate right to seek work and business opportunities within Israel since they are opting for independence. On the other hand, normal economic relations between the two sides would materialise only after Palestinian political rights have been satisfied.

The interim period is obviously the most painful since this is the time when economic pressures on the people need to ease.

Thus all parties which have a vested interest in the success of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are called upon to help in alleviating the terrible conditions that exist now. Israel has decided to transfer a small amount to the Palestinian side as an emergency grant to lessen the impact of its decision to wean itself away from dependence on Palestinian labour. Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has proposed that his government give the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) \$333 million annually for this purpose. This would not be just Israeli charity but a token compensation to the Palestinians who have helped construct the Israeli economy for many years. There are other ideas floating in the area about establishing joint Israeli-Palestinian labour-intensive industries on their "frontiers." Whatever the panacea could be to this new negative development, more concerted efforts need to be made to stop and reverse the additional economic burdens on the Palestinian side so that peace between the two sides would have a chance to succeed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE AMERICANS are trying by all means to perpetuate the U.N. sanctions on Iraq, which has already implemented all U.N. Security Council resolutions, simply to satisfy U.S. selfish interests, said Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. The U.S. administration is now claiming that Iraq possesses biological weapons and that it commits human rights abuses, which, in Washington's views, warrant the continuation of the embargo, said the writer. To back its views, the U.S. administration has sent out its U.N. ambassador around the world to convince governments of its views before the time comes for the Security Council to review the sanctions by mid-March, continued the writer. The United States, added the writer, is not satisfied with four years of sufferings inflicted on the Iraqi people, and not satisfied by Iraq's implementation of all U.N. resolutions, including the recognition of Kuwait's borders and sovereignty.

THE AMERICANS and the Israelis like to describe the coming tour in the Middle East region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as part of Washington's drive to give impetus to the peace process. But in reality, this process does not exist any more in light of Israel's actions, according to Taher Al Adwan in Al Deshour. To abort Mr. Christopher's mission before it begins, the Israeli resorted to maintaining a blockade on Lebanese ports and a siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said the writer. In the face of the threats placed by Israel in the path of the peace process, the U.S. secretary of state is unlikely to achieve any success and could rather seek to freeze the peace process for the time-being until probably after the Israeli parliamentary elections, said the writer.

The View from Academah

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

Formal traffic education: a task greatly neglected

THERE IS no doubt that the formal traffic education that learners undergo, or ought to undergo, before they obtain the driver's license can make a difference when and if handled properly. The more effective the education is, I believe, the better the quality of motoring will be. As things stand at present, however, formal traffic education in our part of the world, a task which the private drivers' training centres are expected to carry out, is both greatly neglected and abused.

All persons wishing to obtain a driver's license are required to take formal lessons at any of the many private centres. The lessons are, or are supposed to be, both theoretical and practical. With respect to the former, learners are required to receive 10 hours of instruction about the various aspects of motoring and the road situation. Specialists at the said centres are to teach the learners the rules, regulations and laws of traffic, and they are to teach them in a way which compels the learners not only to "know" but to value what they learn. In addition to the 10 hours of theoretical instruction, there is, of course, the practical training. The purpose behind the latter is not only to teach learners how to start the engine, steer, shift, break and pull over but also to apply what they have studied during the 10 hours.

Unfortunately, very little of this actually materialises. A small minority of centres takes the theoretical part of the training seriously. Most centres either pay lip-service to the task or ignore it entirely. I have spoken with over 25 people who have recently gone through the process of obtaining the license. Five of them said they took one lesson only. They went to the centre, they said, were told to pay JD 10 (the fee for the theoretical training), were taken into a room for about 50 minutes during which a person came and talked to them about traffic rules, were then informed that they did not have to attend the rest of the lessons should they choose not to for they could teach themselves at their convenience. The other 20 told me they did not take any

theoretical lessons. They paid the JD 10 and started the practical training right away.

I understand perfectly the value and importance of self-learning and self-teaching. A person does not have to go to a centre to learn and learn to respect the regulations, rules and laws of traffic. All one has to do is to obtain the booklet, sit down and read. Easy and straightforward, right? Well, yes and no. Yes, when we feel confident that learners will in fact take this simple assignment to heart, will actually read, attempt to understand and value; and no, when we feel that they won't. In the case of individuals in our society, my guess is that most of them cannot be trusted to rely on themselves in this matter. While some are truly committed, most are too careless to devote enough time and effort. Generally, people in our society have not been trained either to rely on themselves or to take written material seriously. We are too reliant on teachers and instructors and oral discourse to read and learn effectively on our own. What happens is what has happened in the case of the 25 persons I have spoken to: they memorise the road signs and answers to questions in the written test, questions and answers they obtain from those who have taken the test.

But this is not what bothers me most here. The most upsetting thing about the centres' neglect of theoretical education has to do with the implications of their act. Not only are they breeding and violating a crucial trust and a crucial service and function, but they are abusing the learners and corruption them. What lessons are they teaching them when they take the JD 10 and "exempt" them from the learning? What values? What ethics? Are not they teaching them that rules, regulations and laws are to be simply disregarded and ignored? Is not this a subversive act on part of these centres? Is not this destruction? Is not this a major cause of the bad traffic situation we are presently experiencing?

What happens on the road, when the learner embarks on the practical part of the training, is not any better. In the

vast majority of cases, the training is purely and entirely technical. This is good, of course. We do expect our future drivers to be in full control when they are behind the wheel: To know how to steer well, how to make a U-turn swiftly and skilfully, how to shift gears smoothly, etc. And to tell the truth, most of our trainers do a good job at this level. They are all skillful motorists and they know what one ought to do to drive skilfully.

But this is not enough. The purpose behind taking the learner on the road is, in addition to the technical training, to teach him or her to recognise and obey the various regulations and rules. A learner is supposed to learn to stop when he/she comes to a stop sign, to give the right of way when he/she comes to an intersection, to stay in his/her lane and signal when changing lanes, to recognise the presence and right of other road users. Hardly any of this happens. Only three of the 25 learners I spoke with said their trainers paid significant attention to road ethics and rules. The vast majority told me their trainers did not draw their attention to any road regulations or laws. This is not surprising, for if the centre ignores the theoretical part of the process, why should the trainer bother about it?

Clearly, part of the solution lies in making the centres think the theoretical part. The authorities concerned must find ways of putting these centres under surveillance to make sure they do instruct for the whole period after they collect the JD 10. We cannot leave the matter to the discretion or conscience of those in charge of these centres, many of whom seem to have no discretion and no conscience. The authorities must also find ways of pressuring centres to pressure trainers to teach regulations and rules on the spot. I am sure our authorities know exactly what to do to make centres and trainers observe and behave.

What we teach is what we get, and when we do not do our homework faithfully and ably, the concerned authorities must make sure that we do.

Chechenya crisis shakes up Russian political scene

By Timothy Heritage
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Chechenya debacle has radically altered Russia's political landscape, plunging the main democratic party into crisis and deepening splits among already fragmented factions.

Now, as Russia's parties gear up for parliamentary elections next December, a bewildering array of possible coalitions has appeared because Chechenya has broken old alliances, created new ones and shifted the natural fault lines in parliament.

Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky has become an unlikely ally of President Boris Yeltsin by supporting the military intervention while Yegor Gaidar, a liberal and long-time Yeltsin supporter, has split with the Kremlin chief.

Russian politics is now more than a question of Democrats against Com-

munist or liberals against conservatives. The Chechenya crisis has become a defining point for party relations.

The Chechen war dramatically transformed the constellation of Russia's political forces," Michael McFaul, an analyst at the independent Moscow Carnegie Centre think tank, said.

Not surprisingly, political analysts are hedging their bets on who will win the election to the state Duma, the lower house, or the presidential election in June 1996.

But many agree that Russia's Choice, the leading democratic party, has been the big loser.

"There is a split in the democratic camp. And through its reaction to Chechenya, Russia's Choice has started to lose popularity and voters," Mark Urnov, head of the Presidential Analytical Centre, told Reuters.

"It started to lose badly

at the moment when (party leader) Yegor Gaidar went into sharp and open opposition to the president," said Mr. Urnov, whose centre provides the Kremlin with analytical reports on wide-ranging issues.

Mr. Gaidar's break with Mr. Yeltsin in December divided the party. Some prominent members, such as wealthy businessman Oleg Borko and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, quit over the rift.

It also removed Mr. Yeltsin's most loyal support in parliament and threw the party's election strategy into confusion. Russia's Choice had counted on Mr. Yeltsin's support in the December election in exchange for offering to back him in the presidential poll.

The party's leaders play down the problems. "No one can win from the situation in Chechenya and I have been happy with the party's standing in recent opinion polls," said Sergei Yushenkov, one of the par-

ty's leading lights. But a Russia's Choice insider said: "The party is in chaos."

Some commentators saw the democratic parties' opposition to the Chechenya crisis as an opportunity for them to unite, but this has not proved to be the case.

Russia's Choice and other democratic groups, such as the Yabloko Fraction led by economist Grigory Yavlinsky, remain divided — largely because of personal ambitions and a traditional inability to join forces.

Failing to contest elections on a joint platform could water down the reformers' presence in parliament because some liberal parties are likely to fail on their own to muster the five per cent of votes needed to take up seats.

"In the democratic camp there is a lack of unity and coordination of actions," said Sergei Filatov, head of Mr. Yeltsin's presidential

administration. "The danger of such a situation for the democratic development of the country is obvious."

Hoping to cash in will be Mr. Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), which won almost 25 per cent of the votes in the last election to the Duma in December 1993.

The LDPR remains a force to be reckoned with. But most commentators expect it to receive fewer votes in 1995 because Mr. Zhirinovsky is no longer a novelty and the Chechenya conflict has not inspired a mass outburst of nationalism.

Mr. Zhirinovsky's support for Mr. Yeltsin on Chechenya is also probably only a passing phase. A firm alliance with such an outspoken nationalist looks out of the question.

Many commentators say that although the political scene has been shaken up, there are no clear obvious winners and the final result may be no dramatic changes.

Choose employment and then work together for it

By Michel Hansenne

GENEVA — The world is in the midst of the worst employment crisis since the Great Depression. The crisis affects industrialised, transitioning and developing countries alike. Thirty per cent of the global labour force, some 820 million men and women, are affected by unemployment and underemployment. Job insecurity is increasing everywhere.

Yet a disturbing level of indifference and passivity prevails in world opinion, reinforced by constant gloomy diagnoses and prognoses that highlight the job-destroying effects of new technology and global economic competition.

It is time to snap out of this needless and damaging pessimism and to search for constructive solutions. Much can be done through a combination of international and national actions.

The current employment crisis is not a predetermined consequence of uncontrollable economic forces. It is the result of commissions or omissions in economic and social policies and shortcomings in institutional arrangements, all of which can be improved.

What is necessary is to reinstate full employment as a major policy objective. The weakening of the commitment to full employment in the last two decades has contributed to the worsening of employment conditions by reducing the effort and attention devoted to the problem.

The top priority has to be creation of a more conducive framework for higher rates of economic growth and job creation in the global economy. A core re-

quirement is consolidation of progress towards an open and stable system of international trade and investment flows. Properly managed, this can provide a powerful engine for growth and job creation that brings benefits to all countries.

Increased economic competition and new technologies do destroy jobs, but they also create millions of new jobs in activities which did not exist a few decades ago.

Moreover, trade and investment are not a zero-sum game, but generate mutual benefits in terms of market expansion and a more efficient international division of labour. These lead to higher rates of growth and job creation.

The potential gains from trade cannot be achieved without national policies designed to respond to new opportunities in the global economy. Open economic policies accompanied by positive adjustment measures are far more effective than protectionism as a means of achieving sustained growth of employment.

Blanket deregulation of labour markets is unlikely to resolve unemployment. Labour market performance has deteriorated in all OECD countries, irrespective of differences in regulation.

This is not to say that the regulatory status quo should be defended myopically. Some adjustments need to be made — to rules governing the length and organisation of working time, to unemployment benefit systems, to nonwage labour costs. But the very real benefits of labour market regulation must be recognised.

It is imperative to develop an appropriate international framework to ensure that the economic and social objectives in a global economy are examined and pursued in a coherent way. The problems of recent years have shown how badly such a framework is

needed.

A unique opportunity to start moving in this direction will be the World Summit for Social Development next month in Copenhagen. The International Labour Office (ILO) will seek a renewed collective commitment to the goal of full, productive and freely available employment, backed up by a firm plan of action. We do not need new institutions, but we do need to make better, more coordinated use of existing institutions.

While the benefits of a market economy are indisputable, total laissez-faire will ensure neither stable growth nor equity. And exclusive pursuit of strictly economic objectives without regard to their social consequences will not serve to overcome employment.

Blanketed deregulation of labour markets is unlikely to resolve unemployment. Labour market performance has deteriorated in all OECD countries, irrespective of differences in regulation.

It is imperative to develop an appropriate international framework to ensure that the economic and social objectives in a global economy are examined and pursued in a coherent way.

The writer is director general of the International Labour Office (ILO). The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

AUA in Aqaba

To the Editor:

GIVING Amman University of Amman (AUA) a chance makes sense — in Aqaba. In addition to the compatibility in the initials, Aqaba meets most of the requirements the university would need to survive.

It is internationally accessible by land, air and sea. Jordan's only shoreline Aqaba provides a natural classroom for top rate marine biology programmes. It is relatively close to Jordan's most spectacular and archaeological sites, the academic possibilities are endless and self explanatory. Aqaba is Jordan's major tourist draw, a perfect location for a hotel management programme.

On the downside, the population of the Aqaba government is small, but a top rate U.S.-affiliated university in Jordan's only seaside resort should generate enough appeal to draw the necessary enrollment.

Kareem Taloumi,
Amman.

Jordanian universities deserve better

To the Editor:

MY WIFE and I are in Jordan enjoying our work with colleagues in the Mathematics Department at the University of Jordan. My wife is privileged to have a Fulbright grant from the Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange.

We read with interest your editorial on the proposal for establishing a new university in Amman, patterned after the American universities to Cairo and Beirut. We do not express an opinion on this issue but one of the statements you make provokes comment. You say, "The level of our universities is clearly inferior to what is available outside the country."

We should like to say that as far as the Mathematics Department at the University of Jordan is concerned (and we do not feel qualified to judge other departments or universities in Jordan), the quality of faculty and the quality of programmes are of high calibre and compare very favourably with institutions in the United States with which we are familiar. A diligent student at the University of Jordan can get a mathematical education of very high quality.

Your

No news, good news

By Jean-Claude Elias

The last computer show, organised by the American embassy in Amman and which took place last week at the Philadelphia Hotel, did nothing but confirm the impression we had at the previous Jordan Technology Show — nothing really new in the computer world.

I can easily imagine how readers can be shocked by such a statement. Haven't I heard of CD-ROMS and colour laser printers? What about the Internet and the Information Super Highway?

To set the record straight, I must first admit that the show was very professionally prepared. Though confined in a relatively small area, it was pleasant and very business-like. One of the best I have seen.

Of the 20 exhibitors or so, five were not specialised computer companies. A clear indication that Information Technology hardware could not fill the place by itself. A soft drink maker, a car rental company, a courier service company, a satellite vendor and a radio paging organisation were presenting their products.

Well, CD-ROMS are not a novelty anymore and colour laser printers have been around since 1992. So much for the hardware. Of course, the Pentium PC is the latest trend in computing power and speed but most users in Jordan seem quite happy with their 486-DX2-66 machines for the time being, given the price of the Pentium, is still a little high for the local market. Users would beef up their existing 486 computer with more memory and disk storage rather than buying a completely new Pentium PC model.

As far as the Internet and the Information Super Highway are concerned, yes, they are relatively new. It is worth however remembering that they are software and not hardware products. The Internet is

chip talk



already available in the country to anyone who wishes to subscribe. Currently, the local representative can only offer batch processing and off-line service, that is electronic mail that is not immediately transmitted. All messages are stored on a computer's hard disk and then processed, as a batch, twice a day. The on-line service has been promised for summer. The off-line service is reasonably priced. Let's wait to see how the on-line processing would be. We still have to wait for the actual Super Highway that seems in its experimental stage yet, even in the West.

The bottom line is that, apart from a couple of major hardware improvements, the most influential innovations in the last two years were on the software front. The release of Microsoft Office package (word processing, spreadsheets, data base and communication) and its Arabised equivalent, consolidated by the introduction of the new MS-DOS 6.22, have done more than any piece of hardware to change the shape of personal computing. And this is only one example.

Analysts used to say that software is so much more important than hardware that one day will come when hardware is given free-of-charge with software. Perhaps this day will come sooner than expected.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 2

1:30 Animated Classics — Slabbed

2:00 Feature Film — Herbie Goes To Monte Carlo

Starring: Dean Jones & Don Knotts

Herbie the VW falls in love with a sports car as they compete in a race from Paris to Monte Carlo. There are a lot of laughs in this one.

3:30 Football Match

FC Barcelona vs Paris St. Germain

7:30 Road To Avonlea

Sara tries to succeed at playing matchmaker to one of her relatives and a shabby-looking man when she gets suddenly taken aback by a painful fact.

8:30 Documentary — The Blue Revolution

An enthralling series on the political and green issues of our blue underworld, the distressed deep.

9:10 The Hat Squad

The Hat Squad is called to protect one of the DEA's most valuable agents, a drug-sniffing dog, when the leader of a cocaine ring puts out a \$25,000 contract on the animal's life.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Shirley Bassey In Concert

11:20 Bangkok Hilton

Friday, March 3

7:30 Street Hawk

8:15 Desmond's

8:50 You Bet Your Life

9:10 Grand Slam

10:00 News In English

10:20 B.B. King / The Blues Summit

11:20 Feature Film — Shoot

Starring: James Wileman, Heather Graham & J. Travolta

Saturday, March 4

1:30 Animated Classics — Beauty & The Beast

2:00 Feature Film — The Last Flight Of Noah's Ark

Starring: Elliott Gould & Genevieve Bujold

A story of an unemployed pilot who, against his better judgement, agrees to fly a plane full of farm animals to a Pacific island for a young missionary.

7:30 Road To Avonlea

8:20 A New Series

9:10 The Cape Rebel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Leave Of Absence

Starring: Brian Dennehy & Blythe Danner

A man decides to make up for the great suffering he has caused to his wife but only after he learns how to pay the price so dearly.

12:00 The Maid Of Orleans (Opera)

Sunday, March 5

1:30 Animated Classics — Aladdin

2:30 My Secret Identity

If something is of no interest to me, I don't see it! But...

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

One fundamental aspect of a city is its potential to either civilise or brutalise. Unfortunately, Amman, now, fails to provide a basic healthy and civilising environment for its inhabitants.

If cities can only reflect the values and character of the people that live in them, then sadly enough, Amman has become a true consumerist and materialistic town.

Failing to teach children about the environment leaves them ill-equipped to participate in the process of respecting and improving the city that so critically affects their future life. In France, for example, "culture" is the fourth highest voting issue. But where does it rank for us? I am one of the lucky few who, when they feel the squeeze of Amman, can escape to the humanising spaces of the Place Beauvau, La Defense de Paris and the squares and parks of London. Yet still, people wonder why I like to go off to those places every few months.

I enjoy the animation that pavement cafes bring to the street, the informal liveliness of the public square, the mixture of shops, offices and homes, that makes a living neighbourhood.

At a time when Paris doubles its pedestrian areas on the Champs Elysees, and when London is increasing the pedestrian space on Oxford Street, at the expense of traffic, we, as befits our callous materialistic nature, take from our sidewalks, and ultimately from pedestrians, and give to the streets, and cars.

This has got to stop. We should without hesitation pedestrianise downtown. Sweifieh, Um-Umrah and any other commercial pockets that we have created over the past few years. We can, and should, provide the people with the open space in which they can be human again; space that beams with life, be it cafes, street art, carnivals. We owe it to ourselves and to our children.

Yet we have to bear in mind that because modern Amman is a fairly young city, we have missed the opportunity to turn it into a healthy, lively and an

open-minded city. Regrettably, we continue to fail to re-interpret and re-invent the dense and diverse urban city. Accordingly, we are all guilty.

As a result of our actions, and even more our inaction, Amman has become socially divisive and environmentally hazardous. The car has enabled its citizens to drive, and so live, away from its centre. But when a city, any city, spreads out, as Amman clearly has, it becomes uneconomic to expand public transport systems, except with cheaper fuel and so at the expense of clean air, which still fail to provide an alternative to driving. So the car, and all the havoc associated with it, reigns supreme.

We should not let reason and reflection control our unconscious expressions. Take this story for example: Once upon a time there was a centipede that was amazingly good at dancing with all hundred legs. All the creatures of the forest were impressed with the exquisite dance. All except a tortoise that is. How can I get the centipede to stop dancing? Thought the tortoise. He couldn't just say he didn't like the dance. Neither could he say he danced better himself, that would obviously be untrue. So he devised a devilish plan. He wrote the following letter to the centipede,

"I am a devoted admirer of your dancing. I must know how you go about it when you dance. Is it that you lift your left leg number 28 and then your right leg number 39? Or do you begin by lifting your right leg number 17 before you lift your left leg number 44? I await your answer." When the centipede read the letter, she immediately began to think about what she did when she danced. Which leg did she lift first? And which leg next? And she never danced again.

That's the way it goes when imagination gets strangled by reasoned deliberation. My words should not embarrass us. We are not related to the ostrich. We can fulfill the words "tell me how you live and I will tell you who you are." It is a mere bagatelle.

This piece is written for Shireen to remind her that we create our own life. The story of the centipede was a present from Alberto Knox and Sophie Amundsen c/o Sophie's World.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaqir

FANTASTIC FACTS

* British General James L'Amy was absent from Jamaica for a few days and in his absence his fiancée was pronounced dead from the dread Yellow Fever. She was buried in the family mausoleum. On his return the distraught general insisted that he see her beloved's face for the last time. As he did he saw a flicker of life. After a few sips of brandy she revived — and survived as his wife for another 41 years!!

* * * * *

* Eccentric American millionaire William Randolph Hearst, was so fond of telephones that he had them fitted all over his house — and even in the gardens. Many were concealed in tree trunks!

* * * * *

* If you were getting married many years ago in Europe, you would probably have been given an onion as a present! A long time ago, onions were considered very valuable. If you died 5,000 years ago in Egypt, you would have had the inside of your tomb decorated with paintings of onions. The Egyptians also used an onion to swear an oath. The onion takes its name from the Latin word "unio" which means "large pearl."

* * * * *

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Be so good as to forgive me.

Takartam wa'sa'mehui.

— May I speak freely?

Hal tasnah an astakallam be-hurriya?

— I do not meddle with such things.

La astaduk 'thal be-ommoor kabazehi.

— I beg your indulgence.

Arjook an tafasahil.

— It's all my fault.

Al-zanbo zanbi.

— Please forgive my thoughtlessness.

Arjoo an taghfir le tasheeh.

— What a misfortune!

Ya laba min maseeha!

— It's a heart-rending sight!

Innabi manzur tatafatat lehawlahi al-skbed.

— It's a dastardly act!

Innabi amalon khasis.

— It cannot be helped.

Ma bel-yad heela.

— Great God! Have mercy upon me.

Ya Allah ya Azim, Ibraham!

* * * * *

PUZZLES

(A) ADD FOR NADAGE:

Can you, by taking three consecutive letters from each of the following words, make up a well-known proverb?

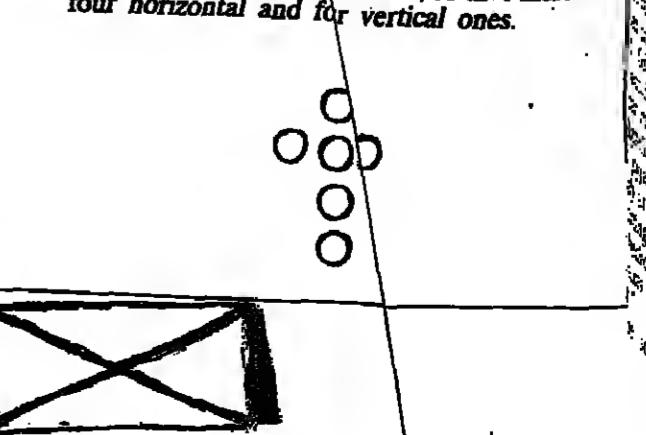
MACADAM — CHRISTMAS — NYLON — HOOKAH — NSTAKE — TWINGE

* * * * *

(B) SIMPLICITY ITSELF

Here is the other error I want to correct. This diagram represents six coins in the form of a cross.

What you are required to do is to re-arrange the coins, still in the form of a cross, so that there are four horizontal and four vertical ones.



* What did the calculator say to the mathematician?

— You can count on me!

Vienna's Opera Ball — an institution returns

By Arno Makowsky

The boxes were empty for years but now society and business are making contacts again at the city's biggest party

VIENNA — Where on earth are my cufflinks, for heaven's sake? It can't be true. The Opera Ball begins in 20 minutes, the debutants have downed their tiaras, the white limousine is waiting outside and now no cufflinks.

What now? Roll up the sleeves inside the arms of the tailcoat? The lady at hotel reception can't help unfortunately, because "she's just sewing on a couple of orders for a gentleman. Right, quickly over to the opera shop, where they're prepared for all emergencies, and where spontaneous ball guests can even rent a ballgown an hour before it begins. Oh well, there's nothing like a safety pin.

Degeneration of manners is unstoppable, as becomes clear later. The charmer from box number nine weaves over to a lady in violet coloured evening dress, and grabs her arm familiarly, rasping "I kiss your hand fair lady" (a traditional Viennese address). How embarrassing! Part of the etiquette you have to know before the Vienna Opera Ball is that firstly, when kissing a lady's hand, you do not actually kiss it, but stop two centimetres short of the back of her hand, so that the most she senses is your breath. And secondly, you definitely shouldn't say anything about "my fair lady" but introduce yourself correctly with a bow.

Perhaps Mr. Elmayer of the famous Viennese Elmayer Dancing School is right when he complains that young people today scarcely know how to be, have on such grand social occasions. He was forced to observe chewing gum flying out of the mouth of an enthusiastic young dancer.

That is bad, but not really surprising, after all the Opera Ball has lost most of its renown, or so we hear. In recent years it was far from a sell-out, the expensive boxes in par-

ticular. Demonstrators even stayed away. What remains of the dazzling of the greatest attraction in Vienna's social calendar, of the dazzling of what some see as one of the country's greatest institutions.

The first impression is shocking — some guests have actually had the nerve to turn up in dinner jackets. Wearing a dinner jacket to the Opera Ball is a bit like appearing on the terraces at FC Bayern dressed like a Munich 1860 football fan. Although Opera Ball organiser Lotte Tobisch had smiled understandingly, saying "If you have no white tie and tails, you can come in a dinner jacket. But you mustn't be surprised if people try to order champagne from you."

Now there may certainly be wallies who will have had to go to a costume hire to rent his outfit for the night. But even that shows style! After all it costs 415 marks (about \$270) to hire tails, waistcoat, shirt and patent leather shoes — and the happy feeling of once belonging to those who throw money around prettily senselessly. On the other hand this expense hardly counts if you consider the other prices: tickets cost 370 marks (about \$220) each and are thus relatively cheap. But those who want to sit with their friends in an exclusive box in the upper circle must pay an additional 23,500 marks (around \$15,600). But anyone who is anyone is there. "If I go to the Viennese Opera Ball," the newspaper Wiener Kurier quotes a famous millionaire, "I can save myself 30 business trips."

It seems that this kind of social and business networking still works splendidly. For newcomers too. "The famous, the snobs, the whole atmosphere — somehow it's really great," enthuses 18-year-old debutant Mathias.

A glance from the window of the marble hall of the Vienna Opera House indicates that the expected demonstration has failed to materialise yet again.

Walser. And his 19-year-old dancing partner Anja Simbrunner says: "I think it's simply a gas!" More than 800 couples had to dance a waltz when they applied for tickets last December — dancing anticlockwise of course. And 180 of these were finally accepted into the "opening committee."

The riot police and their batons on the Opera Square are bored. Gone are the days when there was rioting in Kaerntner Street and demonstrators chanted things like: "They're dancing at the Opera Ball and scheming for our downfall!" The days in 1987, when the leading German politician Franz Josef Strauss sat in a box sipping champagne with Kurt Waldheim, while outside the demonstrators chanted slogans against the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant planned for Wackersdorf in Germany. Nowadays, says Lotte Tobisch, there are no longer any grounds for protest. "The Opera Ball is an anachronistic fairy tale. Turning it into a political issue is ridiculous."

Let's turn back to the ballroom, to the marble stairway, which Sophia Loren is just graciously ascending, triggering a kind of collective ecstasy.

As far as the two debas Anja and Mathias are concerned — by the way, Tobisch thinks "Those two are simply gorgeous" — they both believe that terms like "tradition" and "society" have a positive ring. Anja's father is a professor of medicine, Mathias's family is in the drink business. Theirs is an old family-run company of venerable tradition that makes a famous herb-liqueur. One resides in the fashionable 18th District and one's father says things like: "Yes, we're proud to be Viennese."

Mathias and Anja are both studying business in their first semester. Their fellow students also think it's great that they are debutants at Vienna's Opera Ball, and their relatives are thrilled. Have they got any idea why someone might demonstrate against the Opera Ball? No, says Anja, until now, she'd never given the matter any thought. And Mathias says: "That's just envy, it's the only explanation I can think of."

A glance from the window of the marble hall of the Vienna Opera House indicates that the expected demonstration has failed to materialise yet again.

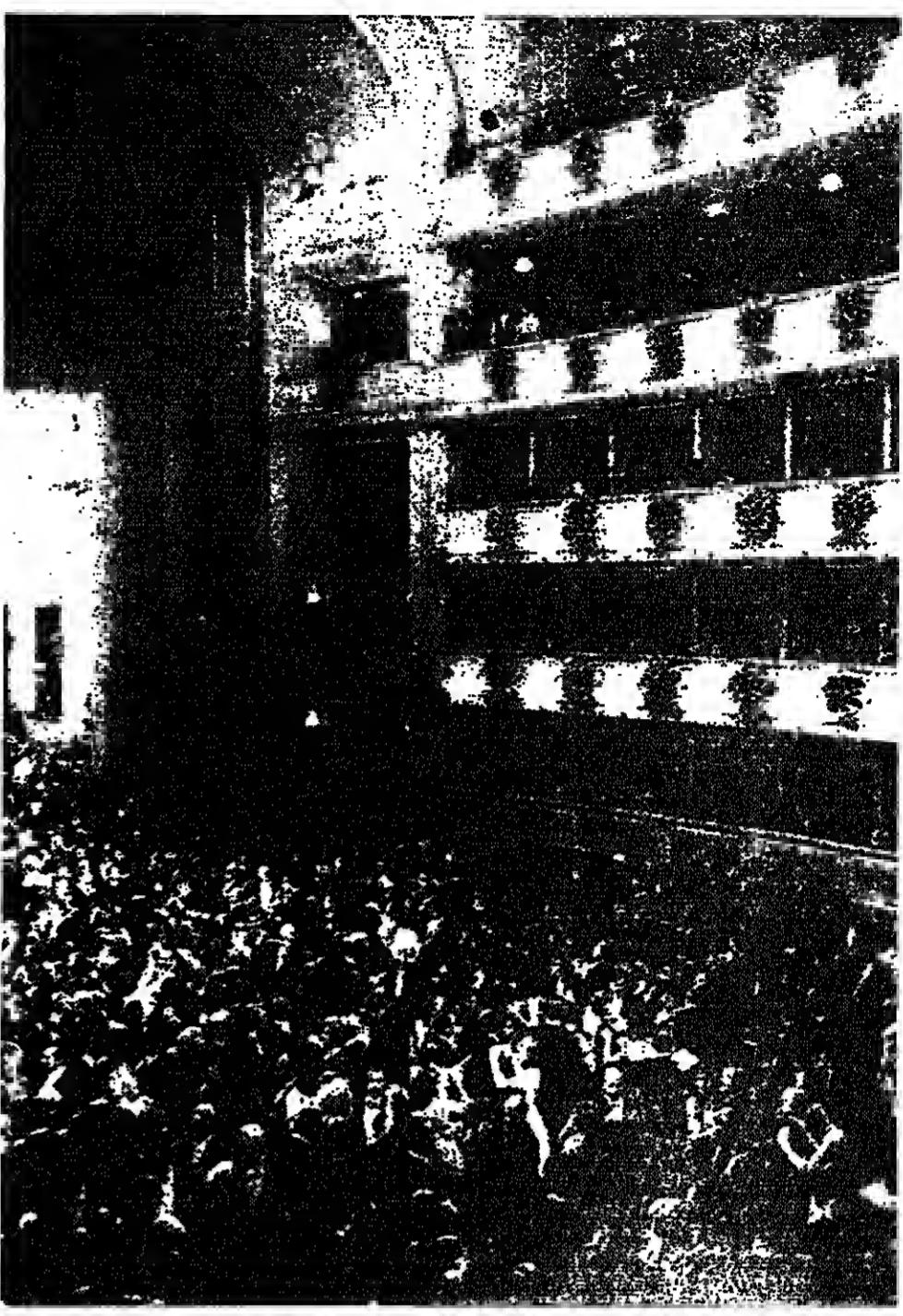
strategies and innovation, take us to the real question of the evening: is the Viennese Opera Ball still the ultimate event on the social calendar at which the international jet set and nobility meet to move in time with the rhythm?

Or has the ball mutated into just another ritual for Japanese and Austrian software manufacturers and nouveau riche businessmen? And — just to exaggerate the question and give it a jet set touch — is all this public posing still "in"? It's a well known fact, that in times of recession you can't even rely on the superrich. And if it weren't for Mr. Lugner and his charter-guests things would not just have looked gloomy in terms of hangers-on, but also regarding famous guests.

But this year everything is different. Everything is sold out! Placido Domingo is there, Austrian President Thomas Klestil, Shirley MacLaine and never mind world stars like Uschi Glas and Helmut Fischer. "You can feel that things are looking up." By the way, Mrs. Tobisch is a remarkable woman, and not just because she used to be an actress at the famous Burgtheatre, before she made the role of "Lady of the Opera Ball" — as the newspaper Neue Kronen Zeitung puts it — her own. She has defended the spectacle ever since with the most beautiful arguments: "Tails aren't elitist, they're egalitarian. Everybody who wears them looks the same."

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The famous Opera Ball reclaims its place as Vienna's biggest party (file photo)

them during rehearsals that the ladies have to sets off again on his right to the left looks really elegant. "And now the ladies lift their skirts," the dancing teacher thrills.

Now Lugner sits next to Loren in his box, and every time someone takes a picture, he snuggles up to the old, hugs her, and grins into the camera, while his wife looks on rather unhappily. And every time a new photographer turns up, Sophia Loren unmistakably rolls her eyes towards heaven. She's annoyed. Scenes like that, and a glance at the champagne bar where two men from Cologne are talking self-importantly about marketing

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the ball lasts until five in the morning and in the afternoon they'll all be sitting in their offices again or in the plane — with their clothes bags for their tails and ball-gown. And virtually none of them will have found their way to the city park where they could have met him, the real king of the waltz. There are the statues of Franz Lehár, Robert Stolz and Johann Strauss or course sculpted as a golden violinist in the midst of gentle elves and nymphs. And by the way, you don't need a ticket to get in — Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

The single-bullet theory of Kevin Bacon's career

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

The First.

While drinking a cappuccino with low-fat milk in the mezzanine eatery of a midtown Manhattan hotel, the 36-year-old Bacon still looks lean and boyish. He's reticent, even aloof, not really warming to the knowledge that his interviewer grew up just a short distance from where he did, or only revealing the Connecticut town where the lives on the condition that it doesn't see print.

At that rate, you'd think he might recoil at the suggestion that his career's on a roll — as if you might be jinxing him. But he warms to that topic.

"Sure," he says. "Yeah, it feels good. I'm probably in a better situation than I've ever been in. My career has had a lot of ups and downs. It's been kind of all over the map."



Kevin Bacon

Movies like *Quicksilver*, *The Big Picture* and *Queens Logic* crashed at the box office. From that down phase, only *Tremors*

fared better, but only after the fact, developing a bit of a cult following on

"I have this theory that there's times when you are as a person, as you walk down life's road, the age that you're at, the way you look, the things that happen in your life, birth and death, joy and tragedy, and all those things are directly related to what's going on in your work," Bacon says.

"I reached a crossroads, a passage if you will, three-four years ago when I was in my early 30s," he says, explaining that he got married, had children, and made some career changes.

"Some of it was very conscious, but also some of the things just kind of laid in."

"*JFK* was a big turning point in my career, even though it didn't necessarily

feel like it at the time. It had a direct effect on getting *A Few Good Men*. It's had a direct relationship to being involved in *Murder In The First* and *The River Wild* and subsequently *Apollo 13* (his next movie with Tom Hanks).

Bacon feels that his *JFK* role "had a certain resonance," adding: "People just saw something different... It jump-started my career again."

He wasn't surprised he could play it, because he said that from the time he began acting in New York, "I've always been drawn to hard-edged, unusual, sometimes psychotic, sometimes foreign kinds of characters."

He honed his skills off-Broadway. Born in Philadelphia and reared in the Rittenhouse Square area of that city, Bacon was the youngest of six

children. His father, Edmund Bacon once served as the director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

At 17, he moved to New York to study acting while working as a waiter.

His first notable movie role came in 1978's *National Lampoon's Animal House* (he's the guy pancaked while calling for calm during the climactic parade scene), then he played the alienated alcoholic Fenwick in *Diner* before zooming to stardom as the anti-his pants-and-he-s-gotta-dance city slicker in 1984's *Footloose*.

At this point, though, Bacon no longer feels that he has to distance himself from that or any other lighter roles he's filled.

"I want to have a really good part. I'm just better if I have a good part. If I don't have a good part,

I'm just not that good," he says matter-of-factly.

From movie to movie, Bacon can display protein qualities, and in his latest outing, he lost some 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms) wore a prosthetic eye piece, and was made up with scars to depict an inmate deformed and deformed by his three years in the solitary confinement of a dungeon.

"It's what I aspire to, and it's what I've worked towards," Bacon says. "Because when I thought about becoming an actor, and when I looked at actors I admired, I thought to myself: the reason I want to do this is because I want to be a bunch of different things. It's not because I want to just be me up there on the screen. I have no interest in being me on the screen. I save me for the people that I love. I'm interested

in being a spaceman or a prisoner or a bad guy or whatever."

The people he saves himself for are his wife, actress Kyra Sedgwick, and their children, 5-year-old Travis and 2-year-old Sosie.

He prefers not to talk much about his family life. "My personal life is not all that interesting, to tell you the truth," he said. "I mean, it's kind of a boring situation: Basically I'm happily married and have two great kids."

And anyway, he thinks what one says can sound so insipid, rather than profound and important, once it appears in print.

"It's like the way that I feel about my wife and kids. How can I put that in a sentence... Poets, songwriters have been trying to write about love for years. And so often they've been completely unsuccessful."

Retrospective celebrates Fellini's fantasy world

By Melanie Goodfellow
Reuter

one of Fellini's dreams, is among the hundreds of his sketches in a major retrospective on the five-times Oscar winner who died in 1993.

Fellini's films, with their chaotic plots, surreal sets and larger-than-life characters, departed from the dour style of neo-realism filmmakers such as Roberto Rossellini.

Fellini thrived on fantasy and the sketches provide an insight into the mind that put Anita

Eckberg in Rome's Trevi Fountain in *La Dolce Vita*, dressed Catholic cardinals in coloured light bulbs for Roma, and conjured up the nymphomaniac figure of Volpina in *Amarcord*.

Many of the sketches show scantily-dressed women with oversized breasts and muscular thighs which served as models for the Amazonian sirens he later cast in his films.

The men, by compari-

son, are often scrawny with angst-ridden expressions. In one sketch Fellini shows an anguished Giuseppe Verdi, the 19th century opera composer, staring at four buxom women sitting on the wing of an airplane.

Some of the drawings, such as those featuring Agnelli and Verdi, depict the dreams Fellini recorded on the advice of a German psychoanalyst he met in 1960.

Others include drawings from before he became a director, including some produced for satirical publications and the Funny Face Shop which produced caricatures for allied troops in Rome at the end of World War II.

American actor Anthony Quinn, who played a circus强man alongside Fellini's wife Giulietta Masina in the director's first Oscar-winning film *La Strada*, said Fellini advised him never to tell the truth. "Once after I had been very earnest in a press conference he said: 'Everyone knows the truth. Tell them something they don't know, tell them your mother's a princess and your father's a giant,'" Quinn said at the exhibition's opening.

"Federico was always dreaming, even when he was awake. He would scribble down his ideas — restaurant owners became furious because he would

draw on table clothes — and they would pop up in his films years later," said Rinaldo Geleng, a family friend.

Part of the retrospective consists of memorabilia from Fellini's some 30 films such as props, costumes, studio stills and story boards.

The section on *La Strada*, widely acclaimed as Fellini's masterpiece, displays the costume Masina wore in the role of Gelsomina, the half-wit girl with a big heart.

Asian women go under the knife for Western look

EDITOR'S NOTE — In male-dominated Asia, where beauty is a must for women who want to get ahead, cosmetic surgery is a growth industry. From South Korea to the Philippines to Malaysia, women who can afford it are going under the knife.

By Sheila McNulty
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Makeup artists complained about her slanted eyes and broad nose. Photographers said they couldn't find her best side. Costume designers balked at dressing her.

Her looks were hurting her career as a singer.

Last spring, 24-year-old Naree Krajang finally decided to do something about it. She underwent plastic surgery to remove some of the skin and fatty tissue on her upper eyelids to make her eyes look rounder and put a fold in the lid. The doctor also implanted a piece of sili-

cone on the bridge of her nose to make it look less flat.

"I didn't want others to criticize or insult me anymore," she says.

Fair skin, smaller, folded eyelids and high nose bridges — Caucasians features — have always been considered the basic elements of a beautiful face in Asia.

Now, as Thailand embraces fast-food restaurants, blue jeans and Hollywood movies in its zeal to Westernize, its women are even more determined to attain those attributes. From South Korea to the Philippines to Malaysia, women who

can afford it are going under the knife.

"It's a trend," says Kanjana Spindler, editor in chief of the Thai edition of the women's magazine Elle. "You can see all these plastic surgery clinics popping up like mushrooms."

Montana Ratchadamnuen, 30, the owner of a furniture store, had her third nose job recently in one of those clinics. The first one had left the bridge too high and the second one left the silicone implant too visible.

Her nostrils are now lined with stitches and her nose is swollen from her third operation. It will be up to six months before the swelling subsides and she'll know if she likes this latest nose.

"If it's not beautiful, I must get a new one," she

says. "I want to be beautiful."

Her husband, Chot Thammathong, 32, says Montana was beautiful before she started getting nose jobs: "Even the first one was unnecessary."

But Montana, a petite, pleasant-looking woman, thinks he is just being nice. She is considering implants to increase the size of her breasts and surgery on her full, sexy lips to make them smaller.

Although beauty is important throughout Asia, in Thailand it appears to consume many women.

They often refuse to wear motorcycle helmets — in violation of the law — for fear of marring their hair. Their clothes are never wrinkled and their makeup is always skillfully applied. Many use creams to lighten their skin. And

plastic surgery has become a must among the in-crowd.

"Thais are very vain by nature," Spindler says. "In this country, people always look at the surface and place so much emphasis on outside appearances."

Dr. Thep Vechavat works 12-hour days, seven days a week to disguise the concealed flaws in those appearances. Women often come in groups to undergo the half-hour operations in his tiny operating room.

Dr. Surasak Muang-sombut, head of the Plastic Surgeons Association, cautions that there are more than 1,000 untrained doctors performing such operations in Bangkok because Thai law permits anyone with a medical degree to perform surgery.

Countless women have

his patients.

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Instead of the smaller, unhappy parts that dominated her career in the past, when she always looked sad, the actress says she now is able to get key roles to play happy women who attract men.

"Now I can act sexy," she says.

Despite the widespread accounts of botched surgeries, Thai women think the operations are worth the risk. Some believe the proper eyes or nose can literally change their lives.

Thadsuang Maneejan, a 19-year-old soap opera star, says she underwent a \$4,000 surgery last November because everyone said her fatty eyelids made her look sad. Her colleagues, her director and even a fortuneteller told her they were bad luck.

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"Now I can act sexy," she says.

Although actresses and singers were the only ones who could afford the operations when they became popular more than a decade ago, the proliferation of clinics, and resulting competitive prices, has

Study: Grape juice may be as beneficial as wine in unclogging arteries

By Rob Lever
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — Grape juice may be as effective as red wine in preventing clogged arteries, researchers have concluded in a study that may explain why the French have low levels of heart disease despite high fat diets.

The University of Wisconsin study showed it took three times as much grape juice by volume to achieve the same prevent-

tive effects as red wine but it offered a method for protecting against heart disease for people who cannot or do not drink alcohol.

"It's better if we can find the beneficial substance in alcoholic beverages without drinking because it will be safer for a lot of people," said John Folts, the lead researcher in a report published this month in *Circulation*, a journal of the American Heart Association.

"Alcohol abuse is a major problem in this country, and the public perception is always that if two drinks a day is good, then four or five may be better," he added.

Mr. Folts said it was too soon to call for a recommendation to drink grape juice, but said people with heart problems might want to consider it. In general, the darker the beverage, the more flavonoids are present.

Mr. Folts and his colleagues last year reported

that two glasses of red wine a day can inhibit clotting that can lead to coronary thrombosis, a disease of the arteries that can ultimately lead to heart attacks. Other studies have shown moderate alcohol consumption to have a similar effect.

The researchers believed that the beneficial substances in red wine were flavonoids, naturally occurring compounds that reduce the stickiness of blood platelets. Flavo-

noids are found in the skins, stems and seeds of grape juice, which are removed late in the fermentation of red wine.

Flavonoids are also present to varying degrees in grape juice, beer and some fruits and vegetables.

To further their theory, the researchers tested grape juice in a group of participants, confirming that grape juice provided the same beneficial effect.

Research animals were also tested.

The so-called "French paradox" deals with a series of studies showing the comparatively low rate of heart attacks among the French even though they eat nearly four times as much butter and three times as much lard as Americans.

Despite similarities in factors such as smoking and weight, Americans have a rate of fatal heart attacks 2.5 times as great as the French.

This has been attributed

to regular wine consumption by the French, but other theories, including the use of olive oil and other cooking habits in the Mediterranean, also have been explored.

In 1974, Mr. Folts was the first researcher to demonstrate that Aspirin may help reduce the risk of heart attacks by decreasing platelet activity.

In his latest study, he said flavonoids may be even better protection because, unlike Aspirin, their effect is not in-

Experimental drugs offer promise for reversing bone loss

By Ellen Knickmeyer
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A drug that could become one of the first new treatments for osteoporosis in more than a decade built bone in women with the disease, a study said.

The drug Alendronate

was given to 516 women over three years, producing an average 6.8 percent increase in bone density at the spine, said Merck and Co., which plans next month to submit it for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. It usually takes about 19 months for a company to

win marketing approval. Patients in the trials in 15 countries outside the United States also showed 4.8 percent and 6.9 percent increase at the two spots on the hip most prone to fracture.

"That's pretty substantial," said Richard Gelula of the National Osteopor-

osis Foundation in Washington. "If they can reduce bone loss, that's a fantastic achievement. If they can add some bone density" better yet.

If the drug works, it's good news for the 25 million Americans, many of them women, suffering from the brittle bone dis-

ease. It's even better news that other potential therapies are in the pipeline as well.

"At the moment, we have perhaps one really effective therapy, hormone replacement therapy," said Dr. Ian Reid of the University of Auckland, clinical investigator in the Alendronate trial, who presented his results

at a conference in Melbourne, Australia.

"Patients... have an enormous need for an alternative," he said.

While the hormones Estrogen and Calcitonin have been the only approved forms of treatment since 1984, drugs that may actually stimulate bone growth are in the laboratory along with

Alendronate.

A University of California at San Francisco study released this week showed promising results with a parathyroid hormone.

A four-week trial of the drug on rats with lab-induced osteoporosis showed all the rats regained lost bone mass, and some actually added

extra bone.

"This is really the first real chance we have to actually reverse osteoporosis," said Dr. Nancy Lane, the parathyroid study's lead author.

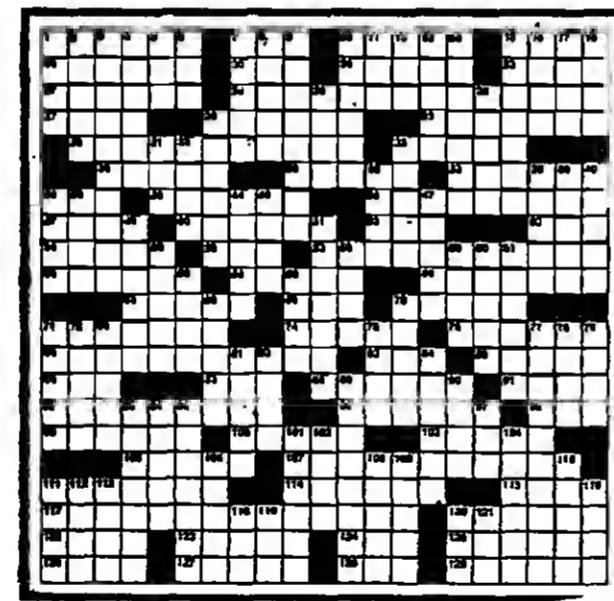
An early candidate for

bone building, sodium fluoride, produced bones that weighed more but

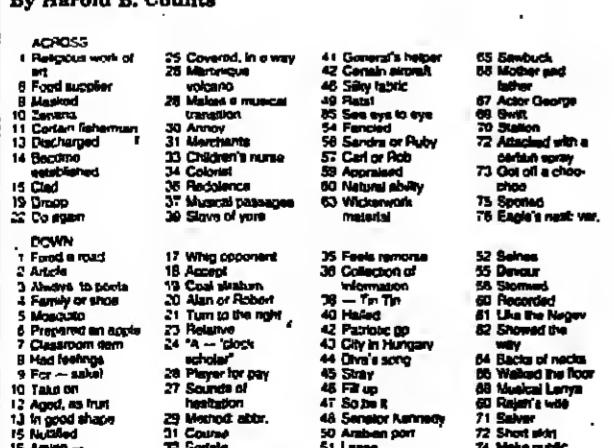
also snapped more.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

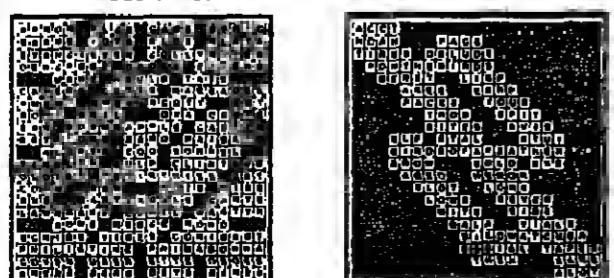
IN LIKE A LION
By Louis Sabin



Diagramless, 19 x 18
By Harold B. Counts



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Too much daytime stimulation may cause babies' fussy sleeping habits

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Baby won't sleep all night? The problem may be too much stimulation during the day — everything from taking kids shopping to picking them up at the slightest whimper.

Many parents list poor sleeping as their biggest child-rearing headache, especially during the first year or two. Dr. Sara Harkness of Pennsylvania State University studied Dutch and American families in search of answers.

She found that Dutch babies sleep longer, and sleep through the night sooner, than American infants.

The reasons, she believes, is a Dutch penchant for regularity and restfulness, contrasting with the American belief that stimulation helps babies' mental development.

Dutch parents tend to establish soothing routines for their babies all day long, not just at night. Compared with American mums, they pick up their babies less and talk to them less. They believe infants should learn to entertain themselves. They put them to bed at the same time every night.

"Perhaps having a regular and restful daytime routine is a key to the early development of a pattern of nighttime sleep that seems to fit the needs of both the child and the rest of the family," said Dr. Harkness.

She presented the results of her study, conducted with Dr. Constance Keefer of Harvard Medical School, at a meet-

ing of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The fact that diverse cultures raise children differently has long fascinated researchers. Usually people in this field, called ethnoepidemiology, compare extremely diverse societies.

Indeed, Dr. Harkness' first research looked at differences in sleeping patterns between babies in Los Angeles and the rural Kipsigis community in Kenya. There she found that while American infants averaged almost eight hours of nighttime sleep by 16 weeks of age, the Africans continued to wake up every three or four hours until at least 8 months of age.

Next, she compared two much more similar cultures — 36 families in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and 66 in Bloemehain in the Netherlands.

"To our surprise, we found that the differences between the American and Dutch children were as striking as between the American and Kipsigis infants," she said.

At age 6 months, the Cambridge babies slept just under 13 of every 24 hours, while the Dutch babies slept almost 15 hours. During the night, the Dutch babies slept one hour longer and slept in longer uninterrupted stretches.

Furthermore, the Dutch youngsters went to bed noticeably earlier. While conducting the study in Bloemehain, Dr. Harkness said her own 7-year-old son seemed to be the only child his age still up at 7:30 p.m.

Her work suggests the

them in front of the TV. Dutch parents, instead, have long followed "the three R's" — Rest, Regularity and Cleanliness.

American parents are often told that lots of stimulation is needed for babies' mental and social growth. "They want to create a loving, exciting and novelty-filled daytime environment for the child," she said.

American parents' work schedules may also play a role. For instance, harried mothers may cart the baby on errands more or sit

instead.

Instead, he said, "this gives us insights into what makes the human body click."

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The computer
2. Edinburgh
3. The Harijan
4. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
5. Antarctica
6. Herodotus

* * * * *

PUZZLES

(A) ADD FOR AN ADAGE

mACAdam
ChrisTMA
nYLOn
hoOKAh
misTAKe
twiNGe

The Proverb is: "A CAT MAY LOOK AT A KING."

(B) SIMPLICITY ITSELF

* Pick up the bottom coin and place it on top of the one in the centre.

U.S. consensus on foreign policy goals is collapsing

By Martin Walker

THAT THE United States "should take an active part in world affairs" has been axiomatic among Americans for almost 50 years. Whatever other issues divided them, this consensus has held steady. Yet now, this sense of shared purpose is beginning to break down.

Back in 1947, as the cold war was getting under way, 68 per cent of the U.S. public backed an active U.S. role, against 25 per cent who disagreed. Last year, the figures were almost identical with 67 per cent saying yes and 28 per cent saying no.

These figures, from the National Opinion Research Centre, reveal a durable consensus. The proportion of those calling for an active role has never fallen below 65 per cent (in 1980), nor risen higher than 73 per cent (in 1991).

The proportion wanting to stay out of world affairs has never risen above 32 per cent (in 1976 and 1986) nor dropped below 24 per cent (in 1991).

The evidence that something is starting to change is fairly recent. Surveys by the U.S. Information Agency and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, and by Newt Gingrich's favourite pollster Frank Luntz, all suggest that the figures are still being processed, suddenly, a fast-growing mood of introspection and fatigue with the tiresome world.

"The end of the cold war spawned fears that the U.S. would return to isolationism. Evidence to support those fears is growing," said Brent Scowcroft, national security adviser to President George Bush and Gerald Ford.

"American foreign policy not only has become pas-

sive and diminished, but also more narrow-minded, short-sighted and, increasingly, go-it-alone. In a word, U.S. foreign policy is becoming increasingly 'unilateralist' as well as 'isolationist'."

Yet Bob Zoellick, counsellor in James Baker's state department and the outstanding foreign policy brain in the Bush era, said the real change was in the policy-making elite.

"Go into the small print of all the polls and you find Americans still want to play an international role, and are very clear about our vital interests: The oil of the (Arab) Gulf, stability in Europe and East Asia and the Western hemisphere."

"You find a similar consensus among the elites in the wider civil society outside Washington, the business and banking circles and the non-governmental organisations involved in aid and humanitarian and environmental work. It is among the political and policy elites that the consensus has broken. They are all over the map, and what is striking is the lack of a catalysing leadership — which means the president."

Mr. Zoellick and Mr. Scowcroft, like most Republicans, suggest the Clinton administration is especially to blame. Mr. Scowcroft is particularly critical of Bill Clinton's drift away from the Bosnian arms embargo. "Rather than pick and win a fight with congress, it would abandon unilaterally a policy we had forged with our NATO allies," he said.

Democrats, equally inevitably, tend to blame the Republicans, particularly their new congressmen, almost half of whom have been elected since 1992. They not only have no

memory of the cold war; even the Gulf war was over before they came to Washington.

"The imperative of American leadership is a central lesson of our times," the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, told them last month.

"Imagine what the world would have been like without it in just the last two years alone. We might now have four nuclear states in the former Soviet Union instead of one. We might have no GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) or NAFTA (North American Free Trade Area). We might have brutal dictators still terrorising Haiti. And we might very well have Iraqi troops back in Kuwait."

The broken consensus is also plain in institutions such as the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), where Henry Kissinger and the former Democratic defence secretary Harold Brown are chairing a study group on Europe and the Western hemisphere.

"We are absolutely split on whether NATO should be expanded into Eastern Europe or not, so divided I cannot see any policy recommendation emerging," said Paula Dohriansky, a member of the CFR group and who served on Ronald Reagan's national security council.

But these arguments between Americans seem beside the point to foreign observers, who see a more fundamental change taking place in the way the U.S. relates to the world.

Wolfgang Pordzik runs the Adenauer Institute in Washington, part think-tank and part embassy in the U.S. for Germany's Christian Democrats.

"The nature of U.S. leadership has changed from the military and alliance form of the cold war, to an economic leadership where the U.S. is no longer so dominant, more first among equals," he suggested.

"This means the American political class is much more concerned about the costs and benefits of involvement or intervention. This is partly a question of resources, which are constrained by budget deficits, and partly a question of alarm about U.S. casualties."

Dr. Luttwak, a consultant

to the national security council and a genuinely original, iconoclastic thinker at Washington's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, believes the change is demographic, a result of smaller families, where the loss of a son means a much deeper emotional shock.

"A superpower does not only intervene when vital national interests are at stake, but has the luxury of choice to intervene and take casualties in the case of marginal interests, to indulge its preferences as well as its strategic needs," he said. "To be deterred by fear of losses is to force a superpower into the strategic profile of a petty principality."

Dr. Luttwak says the experience of the cold war has for 50 years accustomed America to the comforting delusion that a great strategic campaign can be sustained and won without war. The cold war's two serious military campaigns, in Korea and Vietnam, were deeply unpopular and controversial, and led to the toppling of two Democratic presidents.

Professor James Chace of Bard College, another member of CFR, pointed to the role of the United Nations. "What is taking place in America is a retreat from internationalism because it is seen as costing too much in money and in lives, and promiscuously committed to causes which may not be clearly in American interests nor under American command. That is why the U.N. is the focus of so much resentment."

This retreat from internationalism was very tightly focused, respecting U.S. intervention in marginal causes, like Somalia or Haiti, or in places like Bosnia which were seen as a European responsibility.

But the suspicion about internationalism is now starting to widen ominously, to include economic matters like the attempt to rescue the Mexican peso," Prof. Chace added.

This argument is taken further by Professor David Calleo of the School of Advanced International Studies. He fears the retreat from internationalism could grow as the U.S. public comes to understand that the global economy increases the U.S. commitment overseas.

The fact is we are extending our international obligations. We are seeking to expand NATO into Eastern Europe. Put the Haiti operation to one side, the rescue of the Mexican peso shows the degree to which we are extending our obligations in the Western hemisphere.

"In the name of nuclear non-proliferation, we are deepening our involvement in Asia. This is most visible in North Korea, where we are arranging compensation in energy supplies for dismantling nuclear reactors. But we are also compensating Kazakhstan for giving

up the nuclear capability inherited from the Soviet Union.

"And these precedents have not been lost on India and Pakistan. We also seem to be taking the lead in establishing a wider Pacific security area, based on our commitment to an Asia-Pacific free trade commun-

ity."

The argument that America's free trade strategy involves a more extensive security commitment, rather than Britain's economic dominance of the 19th century required a Pax Britannica to police it, is made most bluntly by Ben Schwarz of the Rand Corporation, the think-tank whose new focus on trade issues is indicative of the shifting grounds of the U.S. strategic debate.

"Underpinning U.S. world order strategy is the belief that America must maintain what is in essence a military protectorate in economically critical regions to ensure its vital trade and financial relations, will not be disrupted by political upheaval," Mr. Schwarz suggested.

He cites the former secretary of state Dean Rusk on Vietnam, arguing that "the U.S. is safe only to the extent its total environment is safe." He quotes the 1992 draft of the Pentagon's Defence Planning Guidance, which says the U.S. "will retain the pre-eminent responsibility for addressing selectively those wrongs which threaten not only our interests but those of our allies and friends, or which could seriously unsettle international relations."

"This would not only overstretch U.S. resources, he argues, but would also lead to the collapse of a U.S.-run world order, because "the worldwide economic system the U.S. has protected and fostered has itself largely determined the country's relative economic decline. Economic power has diffused from the U.S. to new centres of growth. U.S. hegemony, perforce, has been undermined."

If the U.S. public is only dimly beginning to perceive this, those subject to the Pax Americana believe there is no drift to isolationism. Quite the reverse. A senior Asian diplomat, who insisted on anonymity, suggests there is an extraordinary divergence of view about U.S. policies taking place between the Europeans and the Asians.

"All my European colleagues worry about the U.S. turning its back on them, while a lot of my Asian colleagues are concerned that the U.S. is trying to get too involved in Asia; is interfering too often and too bluntly."

"You have to have been on the receiving end of what is called U.S. trade diplomacy to realise it is not very diplomatic at all. They may say they simply want open markets and free trade, but what they mean is that we are supposed to become more like them. They want to change our distribution and retail system to suit their exporters, and change our finance system to suit their banks."

"They want us to swallow an American culture of CNN and Hollywood, insist we welcome their rude and intrusive media, while they lecture us on human rights. The cultural arrogance of a country with such problems of race and crime is threatening to people on our side of the Pacific. Frankly, there are times when rather more American isolation would be most welcome."

The Guardian

Letter from Manama

'Only an accountable government can tackle social problems'

IN THE circumstances, "I survived Bahrain 1994" is either a bold or a foolish slogan with which to adorn a T-shirt. Yet there the item hangs in an open-fronted shop near Bah Al Bahrain.

There in the heart of Manama, the capital of this little island state, stepped-up police patrols are supplemented by desultory groups of riot police hunched around the mosque at the junction of Street 121 and Bah Al Bahrain. Sipping tea, sitting in cars and trucks, they are fed up rather than ferocious. Their equipment looks to be from sale — a few riot shields with matching belts and clubs (condition fair), a clutch of carbines (vintage), a CS gas gun (used), and an aged sub-machine gun (handle with care).

But Manama is quiet. There was one day of unrest when the Bah Al Bahrain police post was attacked, causing great embarrassment to the authorities but little other damage. Indeed, it is by listening rather than looking that the visitor apprehends the situation. A friend apologised profusely: Do I understand his position and why we cannot meet and why I should talk only to the ministry about "the events"?

The local press abounds with ill-judged editorialising. Akbar Al Khalij and AFP and then progresses to an accusation that the Western media is engaged in an organised campaign against the Gulf states. The English-language Gulf Daily News damned the BBC for being in the pocket of Iran after it interviewed a self-styled human rights activist. The British embassy has been finding government complaints about BBC coverage of events.

Paid as little as 40-60 dinars per month, the Asian migrant workers who comprise over half the workforce stand aside from the protests. Living cheek-by-jowl, their relationship with native Bahrainis is good and they have not been attacked during the unrest. But when unemployment is the trigger for unrest and government is willing to play the chauvinist card, there must be a danger of scapegoating.

Middle East International.



U.S. military personnel arrive in Mogadishu as part of an advance planning team for the U.N. withdrawal from Somalia (AFP photo)

Somalia: To some Americans, a metaphor for failure

By Donald M. Rothberg

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Everything the U.S. Congress thinks is wrong with U.N. peacekeeping is contained in the memory of a single deadly clash in the streets of Mogadishu.

The memory is faulty but its impact on U.S. relations with the United Nations endures.

"Do you remember the Somalia debacle where we lost some 44 young Americans?" Rep. Tony Roth, a Wisconsin Democrat, asked the House during debate on legislation to cut back on support for peacekeeping.

"It's a very unfortunate situation that Somalia has been translated in our public mind as kind of metaphor for failure," said Chester Crocker, who served as assistant secretary of state for African affairs under president Reagan.

"It's a grossly inaccurate picture of the operation."

Mr. Crocker said that perception "became a foreign policy failure for Bill

Clinton. But the operation saved maybe half a million lives."

Ironically, the House debate took place as an international force including more than 7,000 Americans was gathering off the coast of Somalia to help evacuate the last 2,400 U.N. peacekeepers, troops from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

No more than a week is the Pentagon prediction of how long the latest Somalia operation should take.

But on the horizon is a troubled world with plenty of candidates for future missions.

The government of Croatia is demanding the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers from its territory, making that former Yugoslav republic another potential locale for a U.S.-led evacuation force.

A handful of U.S. troops — no more than 10 are contemplated — will be part of an inter-American force monitoring the ceasefire that halted a three-week border war between Ecuador and Peru.

President Clinton has said he would consider U.S. participation in peacekeeping operations, said many members of Congress "thought that the Americans who so tragically died in October 1993 were under U.N. operational control, which was not the case."

They were army special forces who were never under foreign command.

We had a wholly different mandate that was far beyond the reach of either the U.S. or the U.N.," he said.

At a Pentagon briefing last month, Edward Warner III, the assistant secretary of defence responsible for peacekeeping operations, said many members of Congress "thought that the Americans who so tragically died in October 1993 were under U.N. operational control, which was not the case."

That led to a far broader mandate that Mr. Crocker said was a misjudgement in that "it made one of the major players in Somalia politics our enemy."

Looking to the future, Mr. Crocker said "there's a lot of test cases (of peacekeeping) coming up," citing Angola and the border between Israel and Syria among them.

Business & Finance

**Business
Daily
Beat**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

'Barings does not hold equity in APC'

Arab Potash Company (APC) has dismissed market rumours that the collapsed Barings bank held a stake in the company's capital. APC explained that Barings acted only as a broker to three foreign companies in buying APC shares. APC named the companies and their holdings as follows: Global Privatisation Fund (206,333 shares/dinars), International Privatisation Fund (14,900 shares/dinars) and Worldwide Privatisation Fund (11,100 shares/dinars) (Al Aswaq).

Merchants estimate the minimum cost to dress a child for the feast at JD 20 and, as such, the head of a family with four example, four children would need JD 80 to buy new clothes. The merchants say that due to limited income and large size families' parents can only provide the bare minimum of the requirements for the feast.

Merchants also say recession is unprecedented and it affects especially the clothing sector. They point to the return of many expatriates after the Gulf war and the lack of purchasing power those expatriates have now as compared to the past when their arrivals before the feast would create a commercial boom. Moreover, the merchants say, the flow of remittances is no longer as large as in the "good old days," thereby adding to the weak activity. Despite the cool weather, traders are displaying summer clothes because many people are not capable to buy clothes for the Adha feast which comes in early summer and are bound to buy summer clothes to serve both feasts.

One of the traders' complaints was against the "suitcase merchants," who, they charged, bring cheap clothes from neighbouring countries and sell them at lower prices and, even, on installments (Al Aswaq).

NutriDair company has finalised its registration procedures and the general assembly elected Dr. Sami Farah Al Halabi as chairman of the board of directors. Mohammad Sadeq Al Fityani was elected vice-chairman. Nabil Hassan Al Nasibi, Abdul Rahman Jardaneh, Azmi Mohammad Latouf, Mohammad Murtada Yaish, Mohammad Tahsin Salim Al Sahagh, Walid Edgar Finan and Mohammad Rasbiq Saleh were elected members. According to Mr. Fityani, the company's designs are ready and the tender to build the project's structure is expected to be announced in August. The building may be completed in 18 months and after the installation of machinery and equipment production is likely to start at the beginning of 1997.

Mr. Fityani also said that a technical agreement has been initialled with a German firm.

Land and buildings are expected to cost JD 1.13 million while equipment and other machinery are projected at JD 1.62 million.

The feasibility study envisages initial production at 500 tonnes a year that would increase to 4,000 tonnes after five years. Exports, starting from the second year of operations, are projected at 75 per cent of the output. Local sales are seen at JD 1.53 million in the first year, rising to JD 12.24 million in the fifth year. As such, JD 44,700 profit could be earned in 1997 and JD 2.2 million in the year 2002. The study showed that NutriDair could recover its JD 4 million capital within four years. Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Company, Dar Al Dawa for Veterinary and Agricultural Industries, the Jordan Investments and Finance Bank, the Arab Financial Investment and Nizar Jardaneh own 51.8 per cent, or JD 2.08 million, of NutriDair capital (Al Aswaq).

Rogue trader vanishes despite Asia-wide search

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — An Asia-wide search for Barings trade Nick Leeson has found little more than rumours and officials conceded Wednesday the man who broke Britain's oldest merchant bank has vanished "into thin air."

A Malaysian police source said they believe Mr. Leeson slipped out of Malaysia after checking out of the Kuala Lumpur Hotel Friday. "He's disappeared into thin air," the police source told Reuters in Malaysia's capital of Kuala Lumpur.

"Leeson is probably out of Malaysia by now but we are still looking for him as requested by Singapore police," the sources said.

Singapore's commercial affairs division wants to question the Barings futures general manager for Singapore, with a view to determine whether he should be charged with fraud and sabotage, the Singapore Straits Times said Wednesday.

Mr. Leeson is the missing link in the loss of an estimated \$1 billion for the merchant banking giant in risky derivatives trading on Japanese stock markets.

He was last seen checking out of the Kuala Lumpur Regent Friday after arriving the night before. Mr. Leeson arrived in Malaysia at least 24 hours before the magnitude of the losses became widely publicised.

South East Asian police forces were checking a myriad of Mr. Leeson sightings in various hotels and

watering holes between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok as the search entered its fourth day.

New details about the life of the 28-year-old futures trader, described by some of his colleagues as a quiet, likeable fellow who enjoyed playing soccer, and by others as an arrogant bon vivant who enjoyed life in the fast lane.

The Singapore Business Times reported Wednesday that he was fined for indecent exposure last year.

Mr. Leeson "dropped his pants in front of a group of women" at a Singapore discotheque about five months ago, the newspaper said.

"When they asked him to apologise, he dared the women to report the matter to the police and handed them his handphone," the newspaper said. "The women promptly phoned the police and Leeson subsequently found himself before a magistrate and was fined \$1200 (\$140) for indecent exposure."

The British Broadcasting Corporation reported that Mr. Leeson, on holiday a week before he disappeared, boasted to his golfing partners that he had already made enough money at Barings to retire in a year.

Police, and his colleagues in the high-flying financial world, speculated that Mr. Leeson may have tried to cross the country's northern border into Thailand. It was not clear whether Mr. Leeson's wife, 23-year-old Lisa Sims, was with him.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Current)	New York 28/02/95	Tokyo 06/03	Date: 1/3/95		
Sterling Pound	1.5835	1.5799*			
Deutsche Mark	1.4622	1.4514			
Swiss Franc	1.2376	1.2359**			
French Franc	51.1405	51.3608*			
Japanese Yen	98.74	96.51			
All	11.11	11.11			
Buy ref STG					
** European Standard R rate at 11.11					
Gross/Currency Interbank Rates	Dates: 1/3/1995				
Current)	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.12	6.50	
Sterling Pound	6.18	6.43	6.41	7.43	
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.81	5.00	5.50	
Swiss Franc	3.37	3.62	3.81	4.12	
French Franc	6.12	6.45	6.50	6.87	
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.12	
European Currency Unit	6.11	6.27	6.56	7.00	
Bank bid rates for demand exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Previous Metals	Dates: 1/3/1995				
Metal	USD/Oz.	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz.	JD/Gm*
Gold	376.70	7.50	Silver	4.51	0.110
All Korn					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate McRefin	Dates: 1/3/1995				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6930	0.6950			
Sterling Pound	1.0967	1.1022			
Deutsche Mark	0.4750	0.4774			
Swiss Franc	0.3610	0.5638			
French Franc	0.1349	0.1356			
Japanese Yen	0.7171	0.7207			
Dutch Guilder	0.4236	0.4257			
Swedish Krona	*****	*****			
Italian Lira*	0.0417	0.0419			
Belgian Franc	*****	*****			
All	*****	*****			
Other Currencies	Dates: 1/3/1995				
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8410			
Lebanese Lira*	0.041875	0.042840			
Saudi Riyal	0.1645	0.1860			
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.3100	2.3500			
Qatari Riyal	0.1835	0.1918			
Egyptian Pound	0.1850	0.2085			
Omani Riyal	1.7910	1.8100			
UAE Dirham	0.1881	0.1900			
Greek Drachma*	0.2725	0.3150			
Cypriot Pound	1.4350	1.5125			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3942/52
1.4630/40
1.6398/08
1.2390/00
30.13/17
5.1395/45
1643.86/8
96.70/80
7.3375/75
6.4680/30
5.8210/69
One sterling \$1.5802/12
One ounce of gold \$376.20/376.70

Canadian dollar
Deutschmarks
Dutch guilders
Swiss francs
Belgian francs
French francs
Italian lire
Japanese yen
Swedish kronas
Norwegian kronas
Danish kronas

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Barings collapse unlikely to spur repatriation of Arab Gulf funds

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The thick tropical border jungle is laced with smuggler's routes and old communist rebel tunnels.

Of the many unconfirmed reports on Mr. Leeson's whereabouts, one said he had surfaced on Thailand's resort island of Phuket.

Another said he was detained in Thailand early on Wednesday morning but that police said they have no record of him, Malaysian officials said.

Indonesia's armed forces commander General Feisal Tanjung said the country is ready to help track Mr. Leeson if he enters the archipelago.

"Indonesia is ready to help find this person on the run if he enters Indonesia but at this stage we have no news," Tanjung told reporters before a cabinet meeting in Jakarta.

ability make them feel safe."

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the biggest oil producers in the world, account for a large part of total overseas investments or reverse a steady capital flight prompted by political and economic restrictions, bankers said Wednesday.

Although Gulf investors have suffered from losses in previous market upheavals, they remain reluctant to bring back their money saying the local market is relatively small, investment opportunities are limited and economic and political guarantees are not enough.

"Even if some Arab investors think of moving part of their investment to a safer place, I do not expect it to be here," a Gulf bank manager said.

"Previous experiences have shown they still prefer foreign markets as they make more profits and political stability

nearly \$400 billion in investment in the United States alone.

According to the UAE Sharjah chamber of commerce and industry, Arabs lost nearly \$12 billion in investments in 1994 due to a decline in stocks and the U.S. dollar. The biggest Arab loss is believed to have occurred during the world stock market crash in 1987, when GCC investors were said to have suffered from a decline of more than \$25 billion in their assets.

"A loss of one billion dollars by Barings bank does not mean you can no longer make profits," a UAE banker said. "The loss was caused mainly by one person and it was due to highly speculative trading. Loss could occur anywhere no matter where the investment is placed."

Bankers said most of the Arab funds abroad were invested in relatively secure sectors such as banks, real estate, treasury bills and government bonds.

They are also kept away from speculation as regional governments and individuals opt for fixed income in the long run.

Economists said shares in the Gulf were now yielding more than in external markets but they noted regional exchanges were relatively small as governments have a high ownership and dealing is restricted to nationals.

Marrion Merrell, Hoechst confirm acquisition talks

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — The German chemical and drug company Hoechst A.G. is negotiating to buy Marion Merrell Dow Inc. in what could be one of the largest acquisitions in the pharmaceutical industry, the companies confirmed Tuesday.

The proposed deal, worth about \$7 billion, would create a strong position for Hoechst in the U.S. drug market, Fred Lyons, Marion chairman and chief executive officer, said Tuesday.

"This is good news," Mr. Lyons said at a news conference. "We're very pleased that it has progressed this well."

The plan calls for Hoechst, the world's fourth-largest pharmaceutical company, to acquire the outstanding shares of Marion Merrell Dow at a cost of \$25.75 per share. The deal would boost Hoechst's position in the drug industry

Official Arab figures showed key regional institutions have a tendency to diversify their investments abroad to offset any loss in one sector.

One of those institutions is the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund, which has reported steady profits from its overseas investment over the past decade.

Another institution is the UAE central bank, which said last year it had switched from bank deposits to treasury bills and government bonds to avert losses from a decline in interest rates and economic recession in the West.

From around \$3.3 billion at the end of 1992, its deposits were slashed to \$1.6 billion at the end of 1993. Most of the money removed from banks were invested in bills and bonds, which surged by 103 per cent to around \$4.19 billion from \$2.07 billion.

A recent opinion poll by the Arab League's main investment body, the Arab Corporation for Investment and Guarantee (ACIG), found internal political instability was the main factor for scaring away Arab investors.

"There are several obstacles for investment in the Arab World," it said. "But political instability and uncertainty remained the main hurdle for the fifth year according to Arab investors surveyed by ACIG."

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Dow Chemical Co., of Midland, Michigan now owns about 71 per cent of Marion's outstanding common stock so the deal would have to be approved by the boards of directors of all three companies, Mr. Lyons said.

The U.S. pharmaceutical industry has been consolidating for more than a year, largely due to a squeeze on profits prompted by the growth of cost-conscious managed care health plans. These plans, such as health maintenance organisations, buy large amounts of drugs and demand deep discounts.

Rumours of a linkup between Hoechst and Marion first surfaced last summer after Marion said it was considering "strategic alternatives" that included sale of the company. Marion is considered among the weaker of the top U.S. drugmakers.



Hundreds arrested after Chelsea defeat Juventus earn draw; Bayer Leverkusen bury Nantes

BRUSSELS (AFP) — At least 350 Chelsea supporters were reported to have been detained by Belgian police during and after Tuesday night's high-risk European Cup Winners' Cup clash between the English Premiership club and Belgian side FC Bruges.

Police were reported to have turned water-cannons on departing fans after the English side's 1-0 defeat in the first-leg of the quarter-final clash — Verheyen scoring the Bruges winner eight minutes from time.

Mounted police were also said to have charged a section of the crowd as they scuffled near the stadium and there were reports that many Chelsea fans had been injured.

Earlier one Belgian fan was reported to have been stabbed but not seriously hurt.

The match took place amidst a massive police presence prompted by the crowd trouble which halted England's friendly international against Ireland two weeks ago.

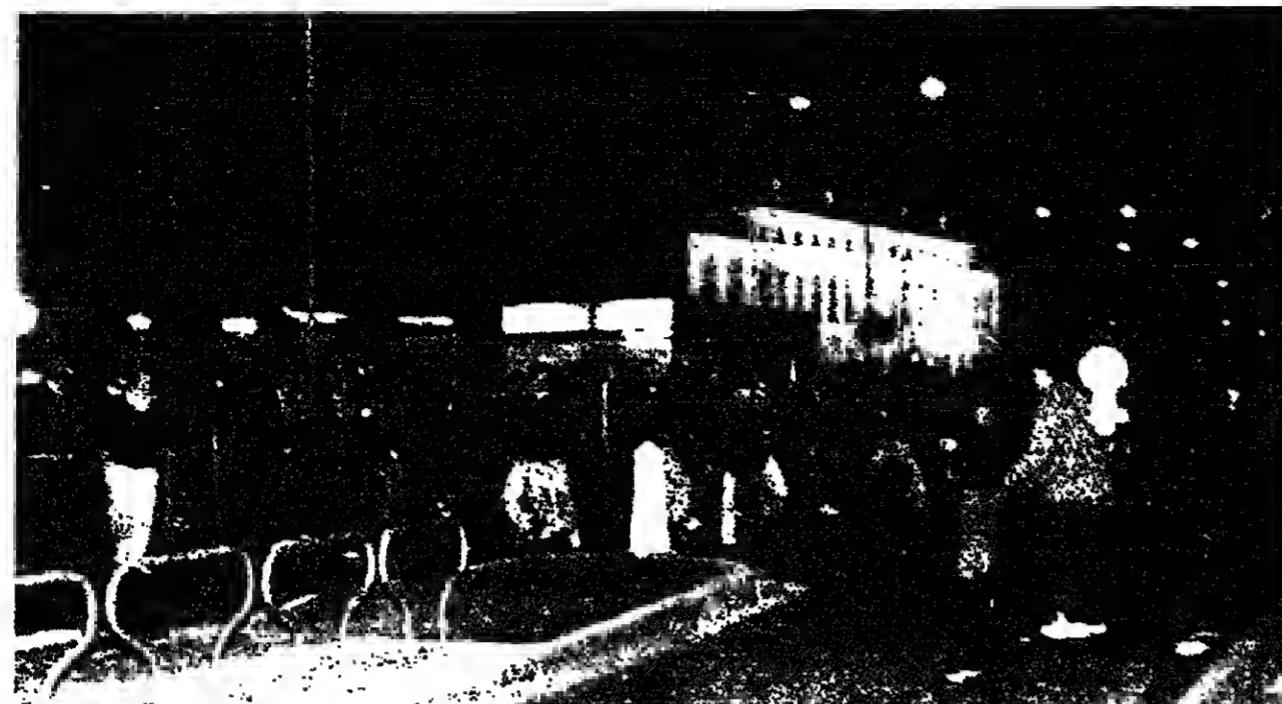
The Belgians had also been determined there would be no repeat of the Heysel Stadium tragedy when thirty-nine fans died after a wall collapsed as Liverpool fans rioted before the 1985 European Cup final against Juventus.

After his side's defeat, Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle said he thought a 1-0 result for the return in London in a fortnight was "not insurmountable."

"We're a little bit disappointed we didn't come away with a 0-0 draw. But this is a good result for us."

Another team who could feel well-satisfied with a 1-0 defeat were Germany's Borussia Dortmund in the UEFA Cup.

They were beaten by Lazio



FC Bruges and Chelsea supporters clash in the streets prior to the European Cup Winners Cup match in Bruges Tuesday (AFP photo)

in Italy after a 67th minute own-goal by Freund. Earlier Lazio's Giuseppe Signori had hit the German post twice.

Juventus, despite the absence of injured Roberto Baggio, went one better than either Chelsea or Borussia Dortmund. They forced a 1-1 away draw in their UEFA Cup showdown at Eintracht Frankfurt.

The Italian league leaders went ahead against the run of play in front of a 40,000 crowd thanks to a neat 36th minute goal by Giancarlo Marrochi.

The goal was set up by a Gianluca Vialli backheel, Marrochi shooting home into the right corner.

But the Germans, who had called in vain for a first-half penalty after Juventus' French international Didier Deschamps appeared to

handball just in front of goal, hit back after the interval.

Just when the visitors appeared to be heading for a surprise win and with just 17 minutes remaining, Polish international Jaroslav Furtok poached an equaliser in the six-metre area.

Nantes, unbeaten in 27 matches in the French first division so far this season, crashed badly in their first-leg UEFA Cup clash against Bayern Leverkusen. They went down 5-1.

The German side, despite indifferent league form, showed that they can turn on the magic on the big occasion.

Three sendings-off and five bookings testified to the intensity of the tie.

Nantes, who were reduced to fielding their fourth-string goalkeeper because of a

series of injuries, were 2-0 down after 19 minutes. But Jean-Louis Garcia in goal was not really to blame for either.

He was unsighted by Rudi Voeller when Hans-Peter Lehmann fired the home side ahead from 20 metres after just nine minutes. And the little hope of cutting off a careless back pass from Christophe Pignol which was snapped up and netted by Karel Haas, the Czech defender.

Four minutes later Sergio, powering through on a swift counter-attack, slid home his second.

Kirsten supplied the killer blow to Nantes' European dreams from a perfect back-heeled by Heiko Scholz with one minute to go.

The drama was not over. With only seconds remaining both Reynald Pedros of Nantes and Christian Worms of Bayer were sent off after a midfield scuffle.

ZURICH (R) — Mexico has told FIFA that it no longer wants to host the 2002 World Cup finals, leaving Japan and South Korea as the only candidates, world soccer's governing body said on Wednesday.

FIFA said it had received an official statement from Mexican officials on Tuesday — the deadline for confirmation of bids — informing it of their decision to discontinue their bid.

A FIFA statement gave no reason for the Mexican decision not to bid for the chance to host soccer's showpiece event for what would have been the third time. Mexico hosted the World Cup finals in 1970 and 1986.

But the Central American country is in the midst of financial and political turmoil that may well have weakened its chances of gaining FFFFA support.

FIFA President Joao Havelange also said that he wants the 2002 finals to be held in Asia for the first time.

South Korea and Japan now have until September 30 this year to prepare full candidate files and present them to FIFA, which would then organise inspection visits.

FIFA's executive committee will decide between the two Asian rivals in June next year.

Mexico drops bid for 2002 World Cup

Rush equals record as Liverpool go through

LONDON (AFP) — Liverpool beat "jinx" rivals Wimbledon 2-0 at Selhurst Park to reach the quarter-finals of the FA Cup Tuesday night while their veteran Welsh striker Ian Rush scored his 41st goal in the competition to equal Denis Law's post-war record.

Liverpool, who have won only twice in their last 12 matches against the London Premiership club, went clear when John Barnes nodded home Jamie Redknapp's free-kick in the tenth minute.

Liverpool then put the issue beyond doubt seven minutes before half-time when Barnes clipped a teasing ball into the heart of the Dons' central defence, leaving Rush to extend a long leg and steer the ball deftly out of the reach of goalkeeper Hans Segers.

It was Rush's first goal in 10 games, his 14th this season, and his 33rd from 618 club matches.

Wimbledon, unlucky to emerge with only a draw at Anfield 11 days ago, never looked to recover from the early setback but they battled manfully until the last whistle.

Liverpool's speed and inventive passing, however, made the difference and proved too much this time for Joe Kinnear's side, who lost striker Efan Ekoku and centre-half Andy Thom to first-half injuries.

BRITISH SOCCER

In the night's Premiership clash, Newcastle flashed a defiant message from Portman Road to pacesetters Blackburn and Manchester United by scoring a 2-0 win over Ipswich.

Kevin Keegan's side made it clear they do not consider the title race beyond them as they surged clear with first-half goals from Ruel Fox and Paul Kison.

The victory left Newcastle six points behind Manchester United and nine adrift of Blackburn.

Ipswich matched the visitors for much of the first-half, but long before the end of the second they looked well beaten and their fourth successive defeat leaves them struggling second from bottom.

Manager George Burley brought in 19-year-old New Zealander Lee Norfolk for his debut in midfield, but veteran John Wark made errors which cost Ipswich dearly.

The 38-year-old player also came close to being sent off in his 65th Ipswich appearance.

He collected a booking for the 12th-minute foul on Peter Beardsley that led to Newcastle's first goal, and then was lucky to escape further punishment from Worcester referee Gerald Ashby for a challenge from behind that left Robert Lee needing treatment.

The former Liverpool star also blundered badly to let in Paul Kison for Newcastle's 39th-minute second goal.

FIFA team to visit Nigerian soccer venues

ZURICH (R) — A team of experts from FIFA's medical committee and the World Health Organisation (WHO) will visit Nigeria later this week for an on-the-spot assessment of the health situation there, a senior FIFA official said on Tuesday.

Officials expressed confidence at a ceremony held to launch the theme music of the games.

"We have mobilised all our resources and are certain that Nigeria will pass the tests of the FIFA health inspection team," said Joseph Ajibola, the spokesman for the organising committee.

"Our streets are now cleaner as there is a daily sanitisation exercise. The destitutes have been relocated and a sense of order has been infused into Nigerian citizens," Ajibola said.

And preparations for the championship itself, however, are going on as if it has not been suspended. The theme song for the games is titled "welcome." Volunteers who will assist in the successful organisation of the championship are undergoing daily briefing.

A new electronic scoreboard has been installed at the national stadium, Lagos, venue for the opening and closing ceremonies, while refurbishing work at the stadia in Enugu, Kaduna and Ibadan, other venues for the games, has been completed.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
TYPE THREE Media Services Inc.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Neither vulnerable. North deals:
NORTH ♠ A K J 10 8
♦ K 10 9
♥ 8
♣ 7 6 5
WEST ♦ 9 7 3
♦ 8 7 6
♥ A Q J 10 9 8
♣ 2 1 0 9 8

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 8
1 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Pass
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 8
Open lead: ?

There are standard ways of leading a card in a suit partner has bid to give the only friend you have at the table some idea of your bidding. You lead from a doubleton low from the top, or fourth-best with greater lead. From three low cards the modern idea is to lead low (unless you have ruff) while veterans tend to lead top-not-

thing. But every now and then a hand comes along where the rules should be thrown away in favor of common sense.

Four spades is the ideal contract for North-South, but we don't suggest you bid that. As far as we are concerned, the only choice other than four clubs would be for South to pass.

Assume West makes the normal wins of four clubs in the hand. East wins and the best defense can do is cash a heart, otherwise East will go to bed with the ace. Dealer can make six club tricks, five spade tricks and a diamond ruff.

Since East has at least five diamonds to the seven hearts West knows the defenders can score only one trick in the suit. Since it might be vital for West to shift the attack through a holding in the North hand, and since West can never regain the lead, West should start with the king of diamonds.

One look at dummy should be enough to convince West that it is critical to shift to a heart. The defender then called two fast tricks in that suit and declarer is defeated before the play has started.

Abu Awwad
In the social comedy
PUNCTURED BAG

The theatre is closed on Mondays

Tickets are available all day

The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays

PHILADELPHIA
Cinema Tel.: 634144 Cinema Tel.: 699238 Cinema Tel.: 677420 Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275
1) Beverly Hills Cop 3 (Eddie Murphy)
2) Total Eclipse
Shows: 11:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
PLAZA
★ Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
★ The Lion King
Evening Shows
CONCORD
CONCORD '1'
Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh
Shows: 11:30, 1, 3:30, 6, 8:30, 11 p.m.
JEAN-Claude Van Damme
STREET FIGHTER
Shows: 11:30, 1:45, 3:15, 5:15, 11:15 p.m.
AMMOUN THEATRE
Monday is the weekly holiday
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571
Presents Abu Awwad
In the social comedy
PUNCTURED BAG
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Tickets are available all day
ARLAN THEATRE
Presents: Abu Awwad
In the political satire:
AL SALAM YA SALAM
at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation, please call 625155
The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays

Samaranch pledges support on Belgrade sports embargo

BELGRADE (R) — International Olympic Committee chief Juan Antonio Samaranch pledged the IOC's full backing on Tuesday to get a sports embargo against rump Yugoslavia lifted definitely.

"The IOC will do everything in its power to have the sports sanctions against Yugoslavia definitely lifted in April," he told a news conference in Belgrade.

"I hope to have good news by that time," he said, referring to the expiry next month of a trial period during which U.N. sanctions against Belgrade were eased in certain areas including sports.

The United Nations imposed comprehensive sanctions against Belgrade in May 1992 for its support to Bosnian Serbs fighting in Bosnia.

On October 1, 1994, it eased sports, cultural and travel sanctions for a trial period of 100 days, extended last month for another 100 until mid-April, after Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic cut off the Bosnian Serbs.

"We are convinced you can look into the future with hope and optimism," Samaranch told Yugoslav sport officials.

"We come at a time which is very significant for your sport. You have suffered some very bad moments but right now your future is much brighter than your past."

Milosevic thanked Samaranch "for support which he personally and the IOC extended for reintegration of Yugoslav sports life," Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said.

Samaranch said he hoped to see Yugoslav athletes compete at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, "without any problems from any federation."



Boris Becker

Courier, Edberg advance in Scottsdale

Second-seed Jim Courier and third-seed Stefan Edberg won first-round matches at the \$328,000 Mass Mutual men's tennis championships on Tuesday.

Jim Courier of the United States displayed an unrelenting baseline attack to dispatch Frenchman Lionel Roux 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

Edberg returned to play after a bout with tonsilitis, before struggling past 20-year-old Hendrik Dreeckmann of Germany 7-5, 6-4.

The tournament's original second and third seeds, Spain's Sergi Bruguera and Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, withdrew because of knee injuries in last week's Stuttgart EuroCard Open.

Richard Krajicek, who rose to 10th in the rankings after a five-set victory over Michael Stich on Sunday in the final in Stuttgart, Germany, is also playing. The Dutch star plays Ronald Agnew of Haiti.

Its top players — fifth-seed Aaron Krickstein of the United States and Thomas Enqvist of Sweden.

Krickstein fell to Russian Andrei Chesnokov 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, and Enqvist, fresh from his second career title last

Sunday in Philadelphia, withdrew with an inflamed right shoulder.

"I expected a tough match from him," said Courier, the former number one in the world who has won his record to 15-2 this season. "We play similar styles and it was a slugfest. Once I got back on serve in the first set, I felt in rhythm. I played a sound tiebreaker and jumped out on him early."

Courier trailed 2-0 to the Frenchman. But the 13th-ranked Courter broke back in the sixth game and won the tiebreaker as Roux committed a rash of unforced errors.

In the second set, Courier continued his relentless ground attack and used a decisive break in the seventh game to claim the one-hour, 44-minute match.

Edberg was pleased to get by the first round after being

drawn with an inflamed right shoulder.

"I just had to make many changes to make many breaks but I wasn't aggressive enough with my return."

Dreeckmann, who has been treated for a rotator cuff problem agreed.

"I think I had many chances to make many breaks but I wasn't aggressive enough with my return."

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Dreeckmann, who has been treated for a rotator cuff problem agreed.

"I think I

Coach Ma Junren planning comeback

BEIJING (R) — Unbowed by throat surgery, appendicitis and a serious car accident, the ousted trainer of China's world-beating 'Ma Junren' running team is planning a come-back, the innon Wanbao newspaper said Wednesday.

"Ma Junren's eyebrow is arched and his nose is askew but he is still in good spirits," quoted a Liaoning sports official as saying.

The controversial coach and a return to top-level athletics with a new crop of young middle and long distance runners along with a loyal Qu Yunxia, the only member of his 'army' to stick with him after the team collapsed late last year, the newspaper said.

Qu is the world 1,500 metres world record holder. China's record breaking men's distance running

team splintered amid allegation that he put too much pressure on his athletes and pocketed their winnings.

Ma, said by one newspaper last month to be despondent and regretful, was unbowed by surgery and a car crashed after his father's death, the newspaper said.

His new team will be in direct competition with the rest of his former 'army' — now called the Liaoning Women's Distance Running Team — and its assistant trainer Wang Junxia, who smashed the women's 10,000 and 3,000 metres records in one extraordinary week in August 1993.

"Two members of the squad are even better than Wang Junxia was in the beginning," the newspaper quoted the sports official as saying.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Paris-Beijing Rally on course

PARIS (AFP) — Former Paris-Dakar rally winner and organiser René Metge has put together what he calls the voyage of a lifetime with a 10,000km Rally from Paris to Beijing via Moscow. "Apart from the parade through Moscow's Red Square it's completely different from the 1992 rally," he said Wednesday. A Russian international trading company revived an event interrupted by conflicts in different parts of the former Soviet republic. Russian authorities, willing to include the event in celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War, gave the go-ahead to this year's rally which steers a wide berth of the war in Chechnya. The rally will start on Aug 6 and after driving to Kiel in Germany the competitors will be ferried through the Baltic to St. Petersburg. The plains of Russia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and China will test drivers before they reach Beijing on Aug. 26.

Jailed Turkish soccer star freed

ANKARA (AP) — A court in Istanbul free Turkish soccer Tanju Colak after he helped the court with investigations which led to the arrest of a car smuggling gang. Colak, the leading scorer in European soccer in the 1987-88 season, had served seven months of a 22-month prison sentence for knowingly buying a smuggled luxury car. He was also fined 772 million lire (\$24,000). Colak told Star TV that he wanted to return to professional soccer as soon as possible. He reportedly already had several offers from Turkish clubs.

Sumo champion to get Japanese citizenship

TOKYO (AFP) — Hawaiian sumo wrestler Akebono, the first-ever foreign "Yokozuna," or grand champion, said Tuesday he would apply for Japanese citizenship by December. "I will be relieved if I can do it as soon as possible," said the 25-year-old American, whose real name is Chad Rowan. "As long as I want to continue sumo, I must become a Japanese." A tradition-bound sumo rule holds that only a Japanese can obtain the status of a sumo elder, which allows him to become a stablemaster after retirement. Akebono started his sumo career six years ago and has remained been ranked at the top for more than two years. Currently, he shares the top position with his rival, Japanese sumo star Takanohana.

Coberger to quit skiing

VIENNA (R) — New Zealander Annelise Coberger, silver medalist in the 1992 Winter Olympics, will retire from Alpine skiing after this season, she said Wednesday. Coberger, 22, the first competitor from the southern hemisphere to win a winter Olympic medal, said he had decided to pursue other interests. "After 12 years without a summer, without a Christmas at home, I have decided it is time too move on to other things," she said in a statement. "I have never had the opportunity to have the normal life of a young person being so far away from my home in New Zealand."

France not asked to pay for sea rescue

CANBERRA (AFP) — France has not been asked to help pay the bill for Australia's rescue of solo yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier, French Minister for Youth and Sport Michelle Alliot-Marie said here Tuesday. Australia spent an estimated 745,000 Australian dollars (\$558,000) rescuing BOC round the world entrant Autissier on January 1 from her dismasted yacht in the Southern Ocean. She was rescued from heavy seas, by a naval helicopter after a dramatic search and rescue mission which involved aircraft and a frigate. "I think there's a certain tradition in the area of sea rescue and certainly there has never been any question of payment requested for this year," Alliot-Marie told reporters.

Young fan causes police panic

UCKLAND (AFP) — When a 12-year-old girl disappeared from her provincial home last week with a backpack filled with 3,000 NZ dollars (\$1,900), police feared for her safety. But when they finally caught up with her alone, the 12-year-old was preparing to fly off to Australia after having spent the weekend watching cricket, the New Zealand Herald reported Tuesday. The girl, who had already bought her plane ticket for Australia, told the herald she had spent Sunday at a nine-day cricket match between Australia and New Zealand. "I'm not missing," the girl told the Herald. "I just left home and I'm not going back. And I don't want anyone to know where I am." She is to be returned with her parents Tuesday.

Papin denies he is quitting Bayern

UNICH (R) — Bayern Munich's French international Jean-Pierre Papin, whose season has been plagued by injury, quashed rumours on Wednesday that he wanted to leave the German club this year. "I don't want to go. I want to honour my contract until 1996... if Bayern takes it one-year option, even until 1997," Papin, 31, said. "I have a lot of aims in Munich. Next year I will have more and then Bayern will see the real champion Papin." Papin has failed to make an impact at the reigning German champions since he came to Munich from AC Milan at the start of the season.

CLA has top spot in college poll

LOS ANGELES (AP) — UCLA received 61 first-place votes to take over the No. 1 ranking in this week's Associated Press college basketball poll. The Bruins (21-2) are the fifth team in five weeks and the sixth team this season to hold the top ranking. They received 1,642 points in the national media panel to easily beat runner-up North Carolina (21-3), which collected three No. 1 votes. UCLA has 1,546 points.

O'Neal scores 41 to lead Magic over Knicks

ORLANDO (Agencies) — Shaquille O'Neal had 41 points and Dennis Scott scored 26 as the Orlando Magic strengthened their hold on the top spot in the Atlantic Division with a 118-106 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday.

O'Neal scored 14 of his points in the first quarter, when Orlando erupted for 40 points, the most by a New York opponent in any quarter this season.

O'Neal, who also had 10 rebounds, had his seventh 40-point game of the season.

Patrick Ewing had 32 points and 15 rebounds, John Starks had scored 19, making five three-pointers for the Knicks, who have lost six of their last seven games in Orlando.

"You can't get to happy about it (the victory) because they're still the team to beat and they're full of veterans."

The Knicks committed 18 turnovers, while Orlando turned the ball over just nine times.

In Milwaukee, Glen Rice scored 24 points and the Miami Heat allowed just 32 second-half points on the way to a 95-85 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Billy Owens added 17 points and 16 rebounds, and Keith Askins had 16 points and 14 rebounds off the bench for Miami.

"I just had confidence in my shot tonight," Askins said. "The coach has confidence in me as well as the team. When they have that confidence, you can come in and take shots like that."

In Washington, Clarence Weatherspoon scored 30 points and Dana Barros had eight of his 19 in the fourth

quarter as the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 106-102 victory over the Washington Bullets.

Sharone Wright had 17 points for Philadelphia, which won for only the fourth time in its last 18 games.

Juwon Howard scored 20 points, Scott Skiles had 19 and Chris Webber 17 for Washington, which lost for the 13th time in 15 games.

In Denver, Dikembe Mutombo scored a season-high 26 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, lifting the Denver Nuggets to their seventh straight home victory, a 114-101 triumph over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Denver never trailed, scoring the first 12 points of the game.

Jalen Rose rose had 18 points and seven assists, and Reggie Williams added 15 points for the Nuggets.

Isiah Thomas scored 20 points for Minnesota.

In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored five points in the 12-3 burst that closed the first half and lifted the San Antonio Spurs to their ninth straight home victory, a 100-83 triumph over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

David Robinson scored 18 points and Chuck Person added 17 for the Spurs, who have won six straight games.

In Dallas, Popeye Jones made a three-point play with 23 seconds left to rally the Dallas Mavericks to a 102-101 victory over the Houston Rockets.

Jones followed a miss by Jamal Mashburn, tipping in the shot as he was fouled by the Rockets forward Chuck Brown. Jones made the free throw to give Dallas a 102-

101 lead. Hakeem Olajuwon missed a potential game-winning 12-footer in the lane as time expired.

Mashburn scored 22 points and Jason Kidd added 18 points for Dallas.

In Los Angeles, Michael Smith scored six of his season-high 17 points in a key fourth-quarter run as the Los Angeles Clippers snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Phoenix Suns, 110-99.

Lamond Murray scored 18 points and Malik Sealy added 17 for Los Angeles.

Kevin Johnson scored a season-high 31 points with eight assists for Phoenix, which was without leading scorer Charles Barkley due to a sprained left knee.

Blood vessel problem caused Mullin black-out

Golden State forward Chris Mullin has a blood vessel condition that caused the five-time National Basketball Association All-Star to faint and injure his head.

Mullin, 31, has vaso-vagal syncope, a condition that reduces the amount of blood flowing to his brain.

"If a person is young and healthy with low blood pressure, they are more inclined to suffer from this symptom," a statement from the Cardiovascular Consultants Medical Group said.

"It is not uncommon to see this vaso-vagal response in young, healthy people who jump out of bed too quickly first thing in the morning."

Mullin fainted at home on February 15 and fell on his back. He hit his head hard enough to cause a concussion.

Mullin has played only two games this season because of various injuries. He resumed light training on Monday, but it was not clear when he would return to the line-up.

Maxwell reinstated by NBA

Houston Rockets guard Vernon Maxwell was reinstated by the National Basketball Association after serving a 10-game suspension for going into the stands and striking a fan.

The reinstatement took effect after Monday night's home game against Cleveland, and Maxwell will be eligible to play Tuesday night at Dallas.

"We are satisfied that Vernon appreciates that his actions were totally unacceptable for a professional athlete, regardless of the provocation," NBA deputy commission Russ Granik said.

Sonia's coach fined \$10,000

The National Basketball Association on Tuesday fined Seattle SuperSonics coach George Karl \$10,000 for his remarks about referees following Monday night's 116-114 loss to the Charlotte Hornets.

NBA vice president of operations Rod Thorn levied the fine against Karl, who was particularly upset at the referees for calling a technical foul on Seattle's Shawn Kemp for taunting after a dunk with two minutes left to play.

"It's a shame when officiating takes over a game," Karl said after the loss. (Referee), Ted Bernhardt ought to be shot."



Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal slam dunks a basket (AFP)

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Al Jazireh's Bethlehem visit cancelled

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first Jordanian sports team that was to visit the occupied territories since 1967 Wednesday learned that their visas were denied by the Israeli authorities and that they would not be going on their historic-making trip after all.

Al Jazireh's women's basketball team was to leave for Bethlehem Thursday at an invitation from the Catholic Action Club where they were to play five matches against Palestinian teams: Orthodox Beir Jala, Sariyet Ramallah, the University of Bethlehem as well as two matches against their hosts.

"We only learned this afternoon that our visas were denied, so the players are surely disappointed since everything was arranged and we were quite enthusiastic about the idea," Al Jazireh's head coach Fadi Al Sahah Wednesday told the Jordan Times.

The Bethlehem matches would have been a good

chance for Al Jazireh to test their preparedness before they leave for Cyprus, March 29, where they will be hosted by the Ketavotovos Club who played in Al Jazireh's international tournament in July 1994.

"We will now focus on our preparations for the Cyprus visit. That will hopefully make up for the players' disappointment," Mr. Sabah added.

Al Jazireh will be facing stiff competition in Cyprus

with reigning champions Al Orthodoxy in the 1995 championship scheduled for mid-April.

Al Jazireh now have 10 players on the initial line-up of the recently-regrouped national team. They include Rana Husseini, Jumana Salti, Suhair Mackus, Tamara Al Khadra, Tala Al Mauge, Rania Dajani, Hala Muheisen and a good group of young, ambitious players.

They will be playing alongside the Kalybos Club of Greece, Lebanese champions Homenetmen, Syria's runners up Al Jala, the Catholic Action Club as well as their hosts. Jordan's Al Orthodoxy have declined the invitation.

Al Jazireh, who won the Kingdom's 1993 champion after joining the women's basketball scene in 1991, are putting the finishing touches before they clash

with reigning champions Al Orthodoxy in the 1995 championship scheduled for mid-April.

China will increase the frequency of out-of-competition tests, he said. It conducted 526 such tests in 1994, up from 315 in 1993, 185 in 1992 and 122 in 1991.

The swimming scandal came as a shock to the sport and an embarrassment to China. Chinese sports officials have vigorously denied allegations of systematic doping.

They also face fines of up to five times their winnings, and their coaches, doctors and managers face similar punishment.

China is fighting an uphill battle against doping.

In 1994, 31 athletes, including several world stars, tested positive, up from 24 in 1993, said Yang Tiancun, director of the national research institute of sports medicine.

Of the 31, a total of 11

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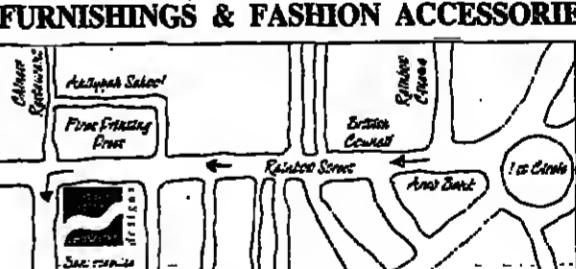
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Malaysia catches another runaway teenager

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) —

Two days after packing a British runaway, Malaysian officials reported Wednesday they had foiled a bid by a teenage boy to enter the country from New Zealand using his sister's passport. The 16-year-old Malaysian lad, who arrived two days earlier, was caught at the immigration checkpoint at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, officials said. The boy, whose family is residing in New Zealand, failed in his bid last Friday to gain entry by using his 16-year-old sister's Malaysian passport. Malaysian immigration spokesman Aris Cionin said the boy charged at the weekend using another person's document. He is awaiting sentence by court at the end of the month. "We have classed him as a runaway and detained him for questioning," Mr. Aris said. The boy could be fined \$10,000 ringgit (\$4,000) jailed for five years, or both if convicted. Mr. Aris' action was taken against young Peter Kerr, who departed Monday. The decision was based on humanitarian grounds following a meeting between the Malaysian government and the British Commission.

Belgium ends conscription

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium ended compulsory military conscription after 170 years Tuesday with the mobilization of the last strong contingent called to serve the flag. Among

the final group was a soldier named Adam Hulmans, publishing the army journal to give the news with the words "Adam, the first man on Earth, the last Belgian script." Belgium decided July 1992 to end compulsory military service from January last year with a view to creating a professional army by and cutting the number of those serving while maintaining its NATO obligations.

Mr. Hulmans said: "Egypt will not accept, as it's being said, a statement in which Israel gives a commitment to sign the treaty after two years, because this subject is political and serious and extremely serious."

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz has said one Israeli proposal was that Israel would promise to sign the NPT two years after reaching a comprehensive peace including states like Iran, Iraq and Libya.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in Cairo last week to discuss the dispute, said this was pure speculation.

A senior Israeli source later said Egypt was no longer linking Israel signing the NPT with Egypt agreeing to extend it when it comes up for extension.

Egyptian officials including President Hosni Mubarak have since restated the direct linkage.

Al Sharq Al Awsat said: "Musa said the acceptable solution was for Israel to sign, especially as it has a nuclear programme which arouses suspicions about its dimensions and aims."

Turkey condemns bombing urges Kurds to peace

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey strongly condemned on Wednesday a car bomb blast which killed 76 people in northern Iraq.

It also urged rival Iraqi Kurds to end 10 weeks of fighting in the enclave.

"No matter who or which group is behind it, we strongly condemn this murderous incident," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said of the bomb which tore through a busy marketplace in the town of Zakho on Monday.

Turkish units are positioned on the Turkish bank of the river marking the border with Iraq opposite Zakho, the INC said.

It said the scale of the troop movements was at least as large as a mobilisation by Ankara in October-November 1992, when Turkish troops launched a huge operation in northern Iraq against camps of separatist Kurdish rebels.

He said some 20,000 Turkish soldiers took part in the 1992 air and ground offensive, which left more than 1,000 people dead.

Northern Iraq, effectively dissociated from Baghdad's rule since 1991, is run jointly by a KDP-PUK administration based in Erbil but the uneasy partnership has all but crumbled in the latest round of violence.

An allied force based in southern Turkey protects the region against any attacks from Iraqi troops which crushed a Kurdish revolt after Iraq's Gulf war defeat.

Mr. Ataman said Turkey did not dismiss the possibility that PKK could be involved in the Zakho incident.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Progress in Iraqi-Turkish pipeline talks

BAGHDAD (R) — Ongoing talks on the repair of Iraq's corroding crude oil pipeline through Turkey have made some progress, diplomats said on Wednesday. "The talks on the pipeline are continuing and there is progress," one diplomat in Baghdad said without elaborating. About 27 million barrels of crude oil are trapped in the pipeline closed shortly after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Turkey needs to flush and refill the rusting pipeline. According to U.N. resolutions revenues from the oil pumped should be spent on the purchase of food and medical supplies. The diplomat said the main problem was the distribution of food in northern Iraq, held by rebel Kurds. "Iraq still rejects international supervision (there)," he said.

800 prisoners held incommunicado in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities have been holding more than 800 prisoners incommunicado for over 14 months, forbidding visits by family and lawyers, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said Wednesday. Detainees in the high-security block of Torah prison, nicknamed the Scorpion, "have not been able to contact their families or their lawyers" since December 20, 1993, an EOHR report said. The continuing ban contradicts an administrative court ruling issued in April 1992 which abolished the prohibition of visits, the rights group said. The court overruled arguments by the Interior Ministry that the measure was necessary to prevent contacts between "terrorist elements inside the prison and their collaborators outside," it added. The EOHR believed that the ban was "an attempt by officials of the ministry of the interior to obscure the deteriorating living conditions and to prevent prisoners from complaining about torture and ill-treatment they have been subjected to."

Israel's spy master played trumpet

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The outgoing head of Israel's feared internal intelligence agency, the Shin Beth, relaxed by playing trumpet in several leading orchestras. The revelation came Wednesday with the lifting of censorship on the identity of the man known only by the initial "Y" since he took charge of the agency in 1988. Yaakov Peri, 51, found time to use his classical music background without blowing his cover. He appeared notably in the Israel radio orchestra. Mr. Peri, born in Tel Aviv, joined the Shin Beth in 1966 and climbed the ranks to run occupied East Jerusalem and West Bank for six years. He took over the top job amid a major scandal after it was disclosed in the press that four years earlier the Shin Beth had executed two Palestinians caught alive after hijacking a bus. Mr. Peri was appointed to clean up the agency and also tackle the intifada which had erupted in December 1987. Israel Radio said that his agents interrogated 26,000 Palestinians in the last seven years, dismantled 3,768 cells and prevented 50 per cent of attempted attacks. At the same time, the Shin Beth became synonymous with torture for the Palestinians. Human rights groups repeatedly charged the ill-treatment is systematic and listed in detail some of the gruesome practices.

84-year-old man dies of stroke after stabbing wife

BEIRUT (AP) — An 84-year-old man died of heart failure Wednesday after stabbing his wife several times with a kitchen knife in a domestic dispute, police said. Tagha Shikrallah Munzir, 63, was hospitalised with critical stab wounds in her neck, chest and abdomen, a police statement said. Shaker Nematollah Munzir suffered the cardiac arrest when police arrived at his home to take him away for interrogation. Neighbours in Munzir's mountain village of Ain Al Rihaneh in the Christian heartland northeast of Beirut told police the couple had been constantly arguing.

Kuwaiti court commutes sentences of rape convict

KUWAIT (AP) — The appeals court has commuted to life in prison a death sentence handed down by a lower tribunal against a stateless Arab convicted of abducting and raping a nine-year-old girl in a mosque. A higher court official speaking Wednesday on condition of anonymity, said the ruling was passed Tuesday. He refused to give details of the session or say on what grounds the sentence was reduced. The criminal court sentenced Abdul Razzaq Ayed, 21, to death on Nov. 12. According to court documents, Ayed lured the girl last July from a shopping centre in the Al Jabra area to a mosque where he raped her "with utter disregard for all religious and moral values." The name of the victim was not released. Ayed can still take his case to the cassation court, the emirate's highest judicial authority. In August, a Kuwaiti man was hanged for abducting and raping a 10-year-old Egyptian girl.

Israel ready for mine-sweeping in Asia, Africa

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is ready to take part in mine-clearance operations in Cambodia, Angola and Mozambique and other developing countries, and foreign ministry said Wednesday. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has agreed in principle to requests from several countries and the United Nations for the Israeli army and military industry to take part, a spokesman said. The framework of the mine-sweeping operations is yet to be organised, the spokesman added.

Israel, Madagascar want closer cooperation

ANTANANARIVO (AFP) — A Israeli delegation left Madagascar Tuesday following a 10-day visit aimed at setting up closer ties between the two countries and reestablishing diplomatic relations. The Israeli delegation was the first to visit the southeast African country since the two broke relations in 1973. Sources said another senior-level Israeli delegation will visit Madagascar soon to look into such issues as cotton production, oil-exploration, defense and health.

Iran slams Iraq's stand on PoWs

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Wednesday blasted Iraq's "lack of sincerity" concerning the fate of prisoners of the 1980-1988 war between the two countries, state radio said. The Iraqi government said last week that the discovery of the bodies of 3,000 Iranians killed in the war supports its claim that no Iranian Prisoners of War (PoWs) are still held in Iraq. But Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi rejected the explanation, saying "the remark is a new proof of Iraq's lack of sincerity and its suspicious attitude." Iraq is "facing a crisis of confidence in its domestic and foreign relations," he said, quoted by Iranian radio. Tehran held a mass funeral last week for 3,000 soldiers whose bodies were found on the former battlefields of southwestern Iran. Iran says more than 30,000 soldiers and civilians are still missing from the war and claims that thousands are still alive and held prisoner by Iraq. Baghdad denies detaining any prisoners and accuses Iran of raising the issue to avoid disclosing how many casualties it suffered during the war. Iraq also says Iran is still detaining thousands of Iraqi prisoners.

Turkish premier ends Japan trip

TOKYO (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller left Tokyo for home Wednesday at the end of a four-day visit to promote business between the two countries. Ms. Ciller met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko as well as Prime Minister Tomio Murayama and other top government officials. In talks with Mr. Murayama on Monday, the two agreed to boost economic ties and boost Japanese investment in the Turkish market. Mr. Murayama offered \$500 million to help cover insurance for trade between Turkey and other nations.

Soccer trouble

A Chelsea supporter is arrested after being caught while trying to climb the fence of Bruges Olympia Stadium on Tuesday during the European Cup Winners Cup tie (AFP photo)



Zhirinovski flies out after visit to Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Vladimir Zhirinovski, leader of a Russian ultra-nationalist party and maverick politician, flew out early Wednesday after a three-day visit to Iraq where he met with President Saddam Hussein and called on Baghdad to join an anti-West coalition, diplomatic sources said.

Mr. Zhirinovski, who heads the Liberal Democratic Party — a strong force in the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian parliament — also signed a draft agreement on Russian-Iraqi cooperation.

Details of the accord were not available, but it was believed to be an outline for increased trade and industrial cooperation between the two sides.

Another protocol signed by the two sides involve close cooperation between Iraq's National Assembly and Baath Party and the Russian parliament. Mr. Zhirinovski was accompanied by several members of the Russian legislature and businessmen.

It was not immediately known whether Mr. Zhirinovski, a controversial and outspoken figure who often challenges Western norms of protocol, had secured any arrangement under which Iraq would give priority to repaying its debts to Russia after international sanctions on Baghdad are eased/lifted.

At the outset of the visit, Mr. Zhirinovski said one of the main objectives of his visit to Iraq was to secure such a commitment. According to the Russian politician, Baghdad owes \$9 billion to Moscow; most of it in arms purchases during the 80s.

Mr. Zhirinovski has often called for an immediate end to the sanctions against Iraq, saying the crippling trade

French diplomat urges

Iraq to respect U.N. terms

BAGHDAD (R) — Jean-François Nodinot, the first French diplomat accredited to Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, said on Wednesday Paris wanted Iraq to comply with all U.N. Gulf war resolutions.

But he said the U.N. Security Council should not ask Baghdad to do more than what these resolutions call for.

The French line is that... the Iraqi government has to respect all Security Council resolutions.

"But we think we do not have to ask more... we have a text. We have to respect the text," Mr. Nodinot told reporters in his residence in Baghdad.

He said France's decision to restore diplomatic presence in Iraq after a four-year rupture was taken after Baghdad officially recognised Kuwait last year.

"Iraq's recognition of Kuwait was a key step," he said.

He said Paris was waiting what Rolf Ekeus — the U.N. official in charge of dismantling Iraq's banned weapons — would say in his forthcoming report in March.

"If Mr. Ekeus' report is positive, there will be new discussions at the Security Council," he said.

"We can find a reasonable solution," Mr. Nodinot said.

Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, who is touring Security Council member states, said in Prague on Monday that the United States had enough support to block any move to in the council to tighten the sanctions.

Fresh battles in Bihać

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Fresh fighting was reported in the Bihać enclave of north-west Bosnia on Wednesday.

U.N. peacekeepers said,

Rebel Muslim infantry who

launched an assault on govern-

ment forces in the enclave on Tuesday

appeared to be backed up by

heavy weaponry from Kar-

jina Serb forces from Croa-

tia, said U.N. spokes-

man Lieutenant-Colonel

Gary Coward,

"We observed a tank and

two multiple-barrelled rocket

launchers moving down to

the area the day before

yesterday," Col. Coward told Reuters.

More shelling was reported

overnight in the north of the

enclave south of Veleka Kla-

dusa, with some 150 mortar,

artillery or tank rounds re-

ported between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. local, a U.N. spokes-

man said.

Fighting also flared in the

south of the enclave on high

ground near Bihać town on

Tuesday evening but details

were still sketchy.

U.N. observers reported

a "lot of shelling" accompa-

nied by small arms fire

around the Grabec plateau to

the east of the Bihać town. A

U.N.-designated "safe area,"

said spokesman Major Herve

Gournet. Mortar bombs or

artillery rounds had also

landed within the boundaries

of the U.N. safe area in the

past 24 hours.

The Muslim-led Bosnian

government Fifth Corps is

surrounded in the pocket by

rebel Muslims loyal to local

politician Fikret Abdic and

allied Serb forces from Bos-

nia and Croatia.

Heavy shelling erupted on

Tuesday near Kladusa, with

some 1,000 explosions re-

ported by five p.m. (1600

GMT).

A four-month ceasefire

signed on New Year's Eve

has failed to end fighting in

the Bihać pocket